News from Senator

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE SATURDAY, MAY 9, 1981 CONTACT: BILL KATS (202) 224-6521

TAX FREEDOM DAY WILL BE MAY 10 THIS YEAR, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- "The average American worker will spend six more days earning money to pay his taxes than he did last year," Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.), Finance Committee chairman, said today.

Dole said that this year "Tax Freedom Day," as calculated by economists for the Tax Foundation, will fall on May 10. This marks the date to which all workers would have to labor to finish paying all taxes -- federal, state and local -- if every dollar earned from January 1 went directly to satisfy tax obligations to all units of government.

"That's six days longer than it took last year; seven days longer than in 1978; and 11 days longer than in 1975," Dole said. "A half century ago, a worker could earn enough in 42 days to pay all taxes. Today, a worker must spend more than 130 days to achieve that result.

"Looking at the inroads made by taxes into private earnings from a different perspective, the average American now spends 2 hours and 49 minutes of his 8-hour workday earning the money to pay taxes.

"This relentless gnawing away of the earnings of the average American cannot continue. It is based on the falacious assumption that the government knows how to spend our money and define our needs better than we do. However, I am convinced that the Reagan Administration will move to reverse this trend. Hearings on the Administration's tax cut proposal begin in the Finance Committee next Wednesday, which will be a good opportunity for Congress to start the push to move Tax Freedom Day closer to January 1."