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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1983 CONTACT: WALT RIKER, SCOTT RICHARDSON 202/224-6521

DOLE TO ADDRESS WOMEN'S EQUITY ACTION LEAGUE TONIGHT IN NEW YORK CITY SENATOR IS CONGRESSIONAL CHAIR OF SIXTH ANNUAL ECONOMIC AWARDS DINNER

--EIGHT WOMEN LEADERS TO BE HONORED--

WASHINGTON -- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Dole (R-KS), a longtime supporter of minority rights, tonight will address the Women's Equity Action League's (WEAL) Sixth Annual Economic Awards Dinner in New York City. The program is at 7:30 p.m., in the <u>Petit Trianon Room of the New York Hilton</u>.

Senator Dole's speech follows his introduction last night of the Retirement Equity Act of 1983, reform legislation designed to redress pension inequities for women.

"The current philosophy of retirement plans -- that they are rewards for a worker's loyal, long and continuous service -conflicts with some of the choices that women must make in today's society," said Senator Dole, in his introductory statement. "Although women may not be participating in the paid labor force for as long a period as men, they need funds to live on as they reach retirement age. In many cases -- either due to death or divorce -- a woman who has made a choice to devote a period of years to her family may find herself unable to obtain the support from her husband's retirement plan."

WEAL is a nonprofit membership organization founded in 1968, specializing in women's economic issues. The organization conducts research and education projects, supports litigation, and lobbies for women's legal and economic rights.

The organization will honor tonight:

Ruth S. Block, Equitable Assurance Society; Loretta Bowen, Communications Workers of America; Barbara S. Dixon, Shearson/American Express, Inc.; Betty Ruth Hollander, Omega Engineering, Inc.; Kate Rand Lloyd, Working Woman magazine; M. Jacqueline McCurdy, Joseph E. Seagram & Sons, Inc.; Sally K. Ride, National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA); and Julia Montgomery Walsh, Julia M. Walsh and Sons, Inc.

Prior to the dinner, WEAL will host a VIP reception at 6:00 p.m., a general reception at 6:30.

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