

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, APRIL 4, 1985

CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
DALE TATE 202/224-3135

BUDGET ACCORD REACHED

On December 4, 1984, Republican members of the Senate met at Blair House to reconfirm our commitment to deficit reduction -- in our view, the #1 domestic priority. Our goal was to make a substantial reduction in federal deficits so that we could help sustain long-term economic growth. At the time we set a target of reducing the deficit to 4%, 3%, 2%, 1% and finally 0% of the Gross National Product by the end of five years.

The plan that we have crafted and are presenting today will meet those goals. We will, in fact, reach what Senator Domenici has called the "Promised Land."

No one said it would be easy and it hasn't been. There's still a long way to go. But the budget plan we have negotiated and intend to take to the Senate floor the week of April 22 attempts to strike a balance and treat all programs in a similar fashion. Both domestic discretionary spending and defense spending have been addressed as have the entitlements.

With respect to defense spending, we will seek a 3% increase in each of the next three years. Social Security and other non-means tested programs will be guaranteed a 2% cost-of-living-adjustment in each of the next three years.

Needless to say, there will be areas of disagreement. We have provided for termination of a number of programs and reform of many others, in addition to a freeze in expenditures in still others. But overall, the package represents a balanced and reasonable approach to deficit reduction. In my view, this agreement provides the basis for consensus among members of both sides of the aisle and those at the White House.