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WASHINGTON, D.C. Dec. 9---U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said "one of the biggest, most unfair and most widely-utilized tax loopholes is the tax-exempt status of labor organizations which engage in political activities."

In a Senate statement, Dole said, "These organizations have a perfect right to make known their support of parties, candidates and propositions, but not by using tax-exempt dollars to do so."

Calling labor unions "powerful forces in the electoral process," Dole introduced a bill, amending the Internal Revenue Code, "to place unions in exactly the same position -- no better, no worse -- as private organizations and as the religious, charitable, scientific and other organizations included in 501 (c) (3)."

Explaining the Internal Revenue Code subsection specifically forbids engagement by certain tax-exempt groups in political activities, "It would be incomplete, but illustrative to say these organizations are devoted to religious, charitable, scientific or publicly-beneficial pursuits and should not be using their tax-free status for partisan purposes."

"Similar treatment for labor unions seems only fair and equitable," he said. "It would eliminate a gross double standard and close the most definite loophole in our tax structure."