



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE ASKS FOR UNIFICATION CHURCH AUDIT

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today asked for an Internal Revenue Service audit of the Unification Church headed by Mr. Sun Myung Moon.

"A great many people in Kansas and other states have questioned whether the activities of this group are exclusively for religious purposes," Dole said. "Under our tax laws, a religious group must be organized and operated exclusively for religious purposes to be tax exempt. If this group is working for other purposes, we should not be subsidizing them with a tax exemption."

Dole said the government should use a great deal of caution in interceding in this case because "we must be careful to protect the First Amendment guarantee of religious freedom for all Americans." But Dole pointed out that facts presented by parents with sons and daughters in the group and by journalists, raise enough doubt about the activities of the organization to warrant an IRS audit.

Senator Dole listed the reported political activities and goals of the group and the Unification Church's organization emphasis on money collection, as possible reasons to question its purported exclusively religious purpose. Dole said many people question whether the group is based on religion or on "brainwashing" and mind control techniques. The fact that the head of the group, Mr. Moon, apparently leads a lavish and affluent life on wealth collected by the young people of the organization was also listed as possibly being contrary to the tax exemption law.

The Kansas Senator said a number of parents whose sons or daughters have become involved in the organization are contemplating a trip to Washington to meet with Federal officials to see what might be done to increase their access to their children. Dole indicated he is looking into arrangements for meetings with leading officials in the Justice Department, the Internal Revenue Service and the Immigration Service.

Dole said a petition being circulated in Kansas and neighboring states, requesting an investigation of the organization by the government, has been signed by over 7,000 people. Dole added that when the petition is completed, he plans to call it to President Ford's attention.