



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE APPROVES DOLE TAX PRIVACY BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The Senate Finance Committee today approved income tax return privacy legislation authored by Senator Bob Dole which would severely restrict access to federal income tax returns by government officials. The provisions agreed to by the Committee would permit the President to receive tax return information under narrowly prescribed procedures and would require an annual report to the Joint Congressional Taxation Committee of all White House requests for tax returns. Under strict court-approved procedures, Justice Department officials engaged in criminal investigations would also be able to obtain tax returns.

Acknowledging that today's Committee action is extremely restrictive, Dole said, "Breaches of tax privacy now occur routinely through business-as-usual bureaucratic procedures. The only way to stop this abuse is to impose strict guidelines on access to tax returns."

"Past abuses and lax administration have raised serious doubts in the public mind about the integrity of the nation's income tax system. Today's Finance Committee action, if passed, will assure every American that his or her tax return will remain confidential and immune from political misuses. I believe Congress will overwhelmingly agree with me that the time has come to put an end to the government practice of using income tax returns for purposes other than administration of the tax system or legitimate criminal investigations," Dole added.

Under the provisions adopted by the Finance Committee today, all federal tax returns and items of tax return information would constitute confidential records, and, except as expressly authorized by law, inspection and disclosure of returns and tax return information would be prohibited. Strict criminal penalties would apply to any person who, without authorization, discloses tax returns or tax return information.