

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE HAILS SOCIAL SECURITY'S PLANNED COMPUTER OVERHAUL

WASHINGTON --Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) today praised the Social Security Administration's decision to revamp its outdated computer system. According to Senator Dole, the planned computer overhaul will not only modernize present facilities, but also substantially improve services to millions of Americans.

"As Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, I recognize the complexities of the social security system--the records of 240 million workers, 36 million beneficiaries and 280 million wage reports are just a few of the staggering statistics the social security office must compile," Dole said.

"The present computer system is sadly outdated, causing inconvenience and nerve-racking delays for millions of recipients. Millions of dollars have been wasted over the years through the day-to-day administration of the program," Dole added.

"By merely implementing last year's cost of living increase in social security benefits, the present computer network was forced to work around the clock for four months. This kind of inefficiency is intolerable. For nearly a decade, past administrations have failed to take decisive action. I commend the current administration for undertaking this significant project," Dole said.

The Social Security Administration plans to spend \$478 million over a five year period to modernize the present computer system; a system now three years behind in recording wage records in some cases.

"The announcement that a new computer service is in the works is indeed good news for all Kansans, whose vital information, and vital benefits, must first pass through computers in Washington. Improved service is the least we owe all Kansans who have paid into the social security system," Dole concluded.