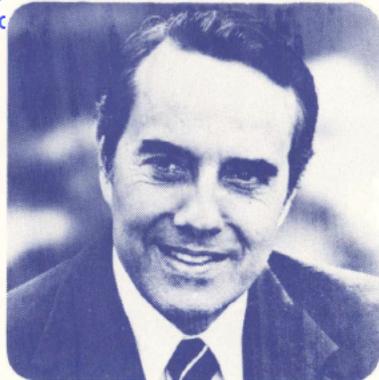


News from Senator

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DOLE SAYS BUDGET PROCESS WILL TAKE TIME

BOCA RATON, FLORIDA -- Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) predicted today that the next 30 days will be critical ones in the continuing effort by the Senate Republican leadership to shape a Congressional alternative to the administration's budget.

Dole made that prediction today during a speech to members of the Futures Industry Association .

"Despite some misguided reports, we still have a long way to go in formulating a viable and credible budget package. There can be no deadlines imposed on this painstaking process--to do so would be to oversimplify the very real challenge that is now before the senate leadership. Instant solutions, numbers and deadlines make good copy, but in reality do not serve the serious business at hand," Dole said.

"The sky over Washington is almost dark from the fleet of trial balloons recently launched from Capitol Hill. But when members come back to earth, there will have to be a sincere effort focused on the development of a broad-based, bi-partisan budget package. Building that kind of package will require time and careful consultation with both Republicans and Democrats," Dole added.

"During the past several weeks the staffs of the Senate Finance Committee and the Joint Committee on Taxation have presented a number of new deficit reduction ideas that are now being considered along with ideas from other committees. Any resulting package of ideas will be the product of in-depth study free from the constraints of political gamesmanship. The alternative budget proposal will be the inevitable product of a broad coalition of leaders from both sides of the aisle," Dole said.