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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE MONDAY, AUGUST 16, 1982 CONTACT: WALT RIKER (202) 224-6521

DOLE SAYS PRESIDENT CLEARS THE AIR ON TAX BILL

WASHINGTON -- Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) said tonight that President Reagan's nationally broadcast endorsement of the \$98.3 billion revenue bill "has cleared the air" of misconceptions about the legislation.

"I certainly appreciate the President's support of this important deficit-reduction package. As the President explained, the bill is primarily tax reform, with more than three-quarters of the revenue coming from loophole closings, tax compliance and the elimination of tax abuses," Dole said. "The President recognizes that this bill is a triumph for the working men and women of America who have for too long carried the tax load, while others have dodged taxes through a maze of shelters or simply refused to report income."

"The President's explanation of the revenue bill has cleared the air of the misconceptions perpetrated by those who either don't understand the bill or those who would like to scuttle the proposal for their own political gain," Dole continued. "Especially important are the facts surrounding withholding on interest and dividends. This is not a 'new tax.' It is simply collecting taxes already owed the government.

"However, I can understand some of the public confusion surrounding the bill, given media reports which have focused solely on cigarette and telephone taxes, provisions that represent a minute portion of the proposal. I believe once given the proper information, the public will support our efforts to bring fairness, equity and simplicity to the tax system. The President's talk tonight is a giant step toward finally getting the real story to the American people."