

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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WASHINGTON -- Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) today made the following Labor Day statement:

It is unacceptable that on this Labor Day one out of every ten Americans find themselves out of work. However, despite the grim unemployment statistics this year, there are some hopeful signs that the troubled economy is at last beginning its recovery: Interest rates have fallen, the stock market has racked-up some impressive gains, and economic indicators have been on the upswing. These facts are welcome proof that the recession has finally bottomed-out.

Of course, this optimistic economic trend will not mean instant jobs for the unemployed; still, there is no question a more robust economy will translate into better news for workers next Labor Day. Although not a solution to unemployment, last month Congress helped remove the sting of unemployment for millions of Americans with the passage of the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982. A key provision of this important tax legislation extends unemployment benefits for an additional ten weeks for out-of-work men and women.

Nevertheless, the tragic unemployment figures that darken this Labor Day holiday should be impetus enough for Congress to do everything it can to spur economic vitality. I believe the passage of the tax bill has already laid a solid foundation for recovery. but there is much more to be done. The President and Congress should continue to take responsible action so that next Labor Day will truly be a holiday for working America, and not just another day for the unemployed.