

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1982

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-6521

KANSAS SNAFU BLOCKING PAYMENT OF SUPPLEMENTAL UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) revealed today that because of internal operational problems in the responsible state agency, the state of Kansas has not geared-up to pay the Federal Supplemental Unemployment Benefits that Congress approved in the recently passed tax bill. Even though the extended benefits to out-of-work Kansans were to be provided beginning September 12th, Kansas has not even been able to accept claims for these benefits, Senator Dole indicated.

"As one of the principal authors of the extra unemployment relief, I am chagrined that my own state has not been paying these vital benefits because of some internal state government problem," Dole said. "It is inexcusable that Kansans who are suffering from long-term unemployment are not able to receive what Congress has already enacted. I am told by the Department of Labor that Kansas is the only state in the country that has dropped the ball on this program.

"My staff has been working on the federal level to see that this sorry situation can be resolved so that eligible recipients in Kansas do not lose their benefits," Dole continued. "Apparently, the Department of Labor has worked-out a temporary transfer of a computer programmer from Missouri to bail-out Kansas.

"Based on reports I have received today, it is hoped that Kansas will be able to handle the unemployment claims beginning next Monday. Nevertheless, I have instructed my staff to carefully monitor the program of bringing Kansas into compliance."

"To those Kansans who have been shut-out from extended unemployment relief, I can say that I will do all I can to ensure that when the program becomes operational, subsequent payments will be made retroactive so that no one who is out of work will miss these critical federal funds," Dole said.