

BOB DOLE



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DOLE TO DEMOCRATS: LET'S MEET THE DEFICIT CHALLENGE

WASHINGTON -- In a noon speech today, Kansas Senator Bob Dole will issue a challenge to Democrats who have been resisting a bipartisan meeting on federal deficits.

Dole, the Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, will tell visiting members of the National Pork Producers that Democrats who criticized President Reagan on the deficits now have an obligation to participate in bipartisan negotiations. Senator Dole will make his remarks at noon today at the Quality Inn on Capitol Hill.

"It's been more than two weeks since President Reagan made his State of the Union call for a bipartisan summit to deal with federal deficits. However, some Democrats -- many of whom criticized the President for not taking the initiative on the deficit issue -- are now balking at sitting down and getting to work on the number one domestic problem," Dole said. "Let's face it, the Democratic leadership has been less than cooperative and that's a shame because the country is demanding action."

"As one who also criticized the Administration, I have to point out that we can't have it both ways. Everyone understands that we have to listen to some rhetoric before we face reality, but time is too short for political games," Dole said.

"I am confident there are enough members of Congress -- Republicans and Democrats -- who trust each other. In my view, we can move very quickly on a plan to cut the deficit by \$100 billion or more over the next three years, but we have to meet before we can move. I urge my Democrat colleagues to come forward and participate," said Dole.