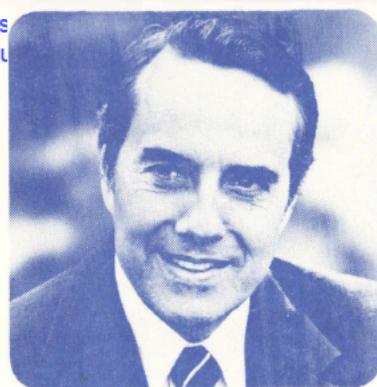


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MOVE ON DEFICIT REDUCTION PACKAGE

WASHINGTON -- Noting that some Congressional colleagues are balking at bipartisan meetings on a federal deficit reduction package, Kansas Senator Bob Dole today announced that the Senate Finance Committee will meet on Thursday, February 23 to consider a \$100 billion package of spending and revenue options to reduce the federal budget deficit.

"At the end of the session last November, members of the Finance Committee were close to agreement on a substantial deficit reduction package, but time simply ran out on our efforts," Senator Dole said. "The Committee, however, voted 16 to 1 to instruct the Chairman, with assistance from the staff, to develop a deficit reduction proposal that would be ready for Committee by February 15, 1984. With February 15th falling during a Congressional recess it would be difficult to have a Committee meeting. I have thus set February 23rd as the date for the Committee to review the various options."

"I am hopeful that the Committee's effort will at some point dovetail with the bipartisan deficit reduction working group called by the President. Nevertheless, there appears to be considerable foot dragging by some of the participants in that budget summit. Based on the bipartisan interest shown by the Finance Committee members last November, I believe that the Committee, on a consensus basis, put together all or most of a downpayment budget package just from items within our jurisdiction. This package could of course grow much larger if defense and non-Finance Committee spending reductions were added. I trust this will assist the bipartisan working group in their efforts, but it also provides some independent options for doing something about the deficit if the bipartisan working group fails," said Senator Dole.