

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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WALSH'S LATEST OUTRAGE

DOLE SLAMS EXTRAVAGANT TAXPAYER-FUNDED "MOCK TRIAL":
EVEN JUSTICE DEPARTMENT SHUNS MOCK TRIALS;
TIME FOR MEDIA TO START DIGGING INTO SCANDAL;
WALSH SHOULD SHUT DOWN, GIVE TAXPAYERS GIFT OF DEFICIT REDUCTION

WASHINGTON -- On the day the Independent Counsel Law officially expires, Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) issued the following statement regarding Independent Counsel Lawrence Walsh's taxpayer funded "mock trial" of Caspar Weinberger, exposed in today's editions of The Washington Post. The Post account estimated that such a "mock trial" could cost between \$10,000 and \$50,000.

"It's fitting that today's embarrassing revelation comes on the very day the Independent Counsel law expires. That's why today is the perfect day for Mr. Walsh to give the taxpayers the gift of deficit reduction by shutting down his six-year long, \$35 million effort in futility.

"We now know that moments after the special prosecutor's election-eve indictment of Caspar Weinberger was thrown out by the court, Lawrence Walsh was billing American taxpayers for some on-the-job training for his San Francisco hired gun, Democrat prosecutor James Brosnahan.

"Their 'mock trial' is a mockery of the taxpayers, and is the latest arrogance from Lawrence Walsh's outrageous \$35 million dollar political persecution of Republicans. Stung by defeat after defeat in their bungling efforts to nail Republicans, Walsh and his henchmen have discovered this new gimmick that will waste even more taxpayer dollars. This mock trial nonsense ought to be the last straw.

Justice Department Avoids Costly "Mock Trials"

"This kind of 'focus group' activity may be commonplace in political campaigns, but has no place in a government probe that is supposed to be 'independent' and 'cost effective.' In fact, the Justice Department confirmed to my office this morning that in the thousands of cases it conducts every year, it does not engage in paying outsiders for mock jury trials, not even for the highest profile prosecutions of mobsters and international drug smugglers. The Department further indicated that budgetary concerns are a prominent reason why it does not engage in this extravagant prosecutorial tactic.

Challenge to Media: Time to Start Digging

"For some reason, the media haven't shown much interest in pursuing the Walsh scandal. Today's revelation should be all the media needs to finally begin digging into this mountain of waste and malfeasance. A good place to start would be a careful reading of the laws that apply to Mr. Walsh. The Independent Counsel statute provides that the qualifications for independent counsel shall be someone 'who has appropriate experience and who will conduct the investigation and any prosecution in a prompt, responsible, and cost-effective manner.' The statute further requires the independent counsel to comply with policies of the Department of Justice. Third, the funding for independent counsels covers only 'necessary expenses of investigations and prosecutions.'"

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