

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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IRAN-CONTRA REPORT

Columbia, South Carolina -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding the release of independent counsel Lawrence Walsh's final report on the Iran-Contra affair:

"Lawrence Walsh's seven-year, \$40 million plus witch-hunt is a case study in prosecutorial abuse and excess. If Mr. Walsh has succeeded in anything, he's succeeded in giving the Independent Counsel Act a very bad name. Today's development underscores the importance of ensuring that, if reauthorized, the Independent Counsel Act imposes strict cost controls and time limitations on future special prosecutors.

"Having failed miserably in the courtroom of law, Lawrence Walsh is now seeking success in another venue -- the courtroom of public opinion. This final report is nothing more than a last-minute effort to smear reputations -- apparently Mr. Walsh doesn't care about his own.

"It is never easy for a prosecutor when he loses a case. But when the 'not guilty' verdict is read, or indictments are not brought, a prosecutor normally picks up his briefcase, hopefully learns from his mistakes, and moves on to the next file. Unlike Mr. Walsh, he doesn't spend at least eight months, at taxpayer expense, memorializing his own efforts and smearing the very people he failed to convict or even indict.

"For the sake of President Clinton, Mrs. Clinton and others, let's hope the Whitewater special counsel avoids Mr. Walsh's mistake of rewriting history."

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