



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE PROPOSES LINE ITEM VETO POWER

Washington, D.C. -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) introduced a resolution for a Constitutional amendment today which would grant the President the power to veto individual items in an appropriation bill.

Now the President must approve or reject the bill as a whole, even though Congress often combines several unrelated departments in a single "omnibus" spending measure.

Nor can a substantive provision attached as a "rider" to the legislation be removed by the President without vetoing the entire contents of the appropriation. Forty-three states, including Kansas, provide for the line item veto power in their state Constitutions.

ELIMINATE PORK BARREL ITEMS

"The enormous size of appropriation bills and the use of appropriations riders have substantially altered the scope of the veto power given the President by the framers of the Constitution," Dole said. "By mixing the good with the bad, Congress can insure the passage of questionable items by making it impossible to veto these items without vetoing the entire bill."

Dole said it would be easier for the Chief Executive to rid appropriations bills of costly local-interest "pork barrel" items. He predicted that the Constitutional change would help to reduce federal spending. It would not apply to the appropriations for the legislative and judicial branches or to bills other than appropriation measures.

Senators Carl T. Curtis (R-Neb.) and Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.) co-sponsored the Dole resolution, which was referred to the Judiciary Committee. Proposals for a Constitutional amendment must first be approved by two-thirds majorities in both Houses of Congress. Then three-fourths of the states must ratify the change before it can take effect.