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DOLE CALLS FOR SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE LANCE

Washington, D.C. --- Senator Bob Dole today urged that a Senate Select Committee be formed to investigate and consider the propriety and legality of the personal financial dealings of Office of Management and Budget Director Bert Lance.

"In light of Senator Ribicoff's stated views that Mr. Lance has been proven right and his accusers have been proven wrong, there is little reason to attempt to deal with this sensitive matter within the existing committee structure," Dole said in a statement issued through his Washington office. "When the Chairman of the Committee with major jurisdiction takes the view there is nothing left to investigate and no questions left to be answered, then it must be assumed that there will be no real investigation.

"I doubt the majority of the American public is convinced that all the pertinent questions have been asked, let alone answered."

Dole said creation of a select committee would also allow one single, comprehensive Congressional review, rather than the smaller, fragmented Congressional investigations being conducted currently. "By consolidating Senate consideration into one thorough set of hearings," Dole said, "we can more effectively deal with the matter and be assured that all information is pooled and no issues are allowed to slip through the cracks. It would be much fairer to Mr. Lance to have him deal with only one committee rather than running from hearing to hearing".

Because the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee has already scheduled hearings, Dole suggested in a telegram to Senator Charles Percy, ranking Republican that a "prestigious Republican counsel be appointed to assist in preparation for those hearings. Following is the text of that telegram:

I respectfully recommend that Republican members of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee take immediate steps to retain a prestigious counsel to assist in preparation for the upcoming hearings into Office of Management and Budget Director Bert Lance's personal financial dealings. It is now apparent that the Committee should delve more deeply into wider range of issues than was first believed. The appointment of an individual experienced in banking regulations and investigation would be invaluable in determining which of the many recent allegations warrant further investigation.