



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## DOLE ASKS FOR INVESTIGATION OF ACTION GRANTS

In the wake of reports of favoritism in ACTION's granting of federal money, SENATOR BOB DOLE today asked for a complete investigation by the General Accounting Office. ACTION director Sam Brown has cancelled one of the controversial grants but others have been called into question. In sending a letter to the Comptroller General, Senator Dole stated "I do not know whether any irregularities have occurred. Nevertheless, since high ranking officials have been named in the press, an independent audit by the GAO will vindicate the innocent and correct any faulty grant procedures utilized by ACTION.

Following is the text of Senator Dole's letter to the Comptroller General:

"The Honorable Elmer B. Staats--

Dear Mr. Staats:

"Possible irregularities in the granting of funds by ACTION have been the subject of recent press reports. The repercussions of these reports have cast an unfavorable light on the entire ACTION program.

"These reports have alleged undue favoritism by those in charge of various ACTION programs. Grant money has apparently been funneled to organizations and groups with which high level officials in ACTION have been associated in the past. Some ACTION officials have raised objections about the procedures for granting this money.

"Because of the serious nature of these allegations, I want to request that the General Accounting Office undertake an immediate investigation of the procedures used by ACTION in evaluating and approving grant applications. Such an investigation should examine both the adequacy of the existing system to remove individual biases and favoritism and whether the established procedures have been followed for all grants made this year.

"This investigation should be undertaken as soon as possible. If not, the grants in question may be distributed to the grantees, who may be unaware of the potential irregularities. Also, the very questions raised have placed a cloud over all of ACTION's programs which will be cleared only by a thorough, impartial investigation.

"Until a complete investigation is made, questions will linger even though it is possible that nothing improper has occurred. For the sake of all parties involved--taxpayers, ACTION officials and the grantees--I want to urge you to undertake and complete this investigation as soon as possible.

"Thank you for your cooperation. Please inform me of any decision made in this regard."