



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE

1:00 PM, THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 1979

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DOLE SAYS SURVEY RESULTS INDICATE AMERICANS WANT ACTION ON REGULATION PROBLEM

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) said today that the results of a Nationwide Citizen's Audit, conducted by the Forum on Regulation, indicates that the American public "wants immediate relief from the choking maze of government regulation which is increasingly impinging upon their lives and their livelihoods."

Dole, who has been a leader in the deregulation fight, and was an original sponsor of the Forum on Regulation, said he was "not surprised by the results of the audit."

"The American public realizes the limitations and problems of regulation and overregulation. The results of this survey bear that fact out," said Dole.

"The Forum On Regulation is a bipartisan effort to come to grips with the problem of needless regulation. The results released today will provide us with a starting point in attempting to deal with the problems many Americans feel exist in our regulatory system," said Dole.

Today's results complete phase one of a four part plan to identify problems and suggest improvements in the regulatory process. The results of the survey were tabulated from responses to a questionnaire completed by over two million Americans. According to Dole, "This is the largest sampling of the American public by questionnaire in United States history, and the message the survey conveys is clear: The American people are disenchanted with the burden federal regulation has imposed on their lives."

"The American people overwhelmingly feel that most federal regulations are not needed, not working, impractical, unfair, out-of-date, confusing and too complicated. It is interesting to note that 75 percent of the respondents, for instance, felt that the benefits of federal regulations seldom justified the cost of regulation. Only two percent felt this was the case most of the time.

"Additionally, the American people, as reflected by this survey, have indicated to us that they feel worse off as a result of regulation in the areas of food and drugs, education, working conditions, hiring and employment, and business operations. 82.2 percent of the respondents indicated that business operations are worse off as a result of regulation. I, for one, must agree that this is true if one is to judge by the complaints that come into my Senate office. It seems to me that overregulation may very well be a leading factor behind our current inflationary problems and our stagnant productivity in this nation," said Dole

Dole Proposes Commission

"Clearly there is a crisis of confidence in our system of government regulation. There is no question that some regulation is needed to protect and safeguard the American public, but the abuses of the current system threaten to undermine public confidence in the entire regulatory process. This would be a dangerous, perhaps disastrous turn of events," said Dole.

"I want to congratulate the Forum On Regulation for alerting us to this danger. And I also want to offer what I see as a solution-- a commission, patterned after the two Hoover Commissions of the 1940's, which would look into this problem and propose solutions. Former President Gerald Ford has indicated to me that he views this as a top priority and said he would give "serious consideration" to my suggestion that he head up such a commission. The OMB estimates that regulation currently costs as much as \$130 billion a year-- roughly equal to \$2,000 for every American family. We must reduce this terrible burden," concluded Dole.

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NOTE: Full survey results will be available at a press conference in 5110 Dirksen at 1:00 PM today (March 8, 1979).