



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE BILL WOULD EXTEND FEC STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS ON CAMPAIGN FINANCE AUDITS

WASHINGTON -- A bill introduced today by Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 would enable a one-year extension of the current audits of 1976 presidential candidate finances.

The current three-year statute of limitations governing the investigations of candidates in the 1976 election expires this June. The Dole bill would extend that three-year statute to four years.

"The process of gathering the documentation necessary for an audit is complicated and time-consuming," Dole said on introducing the bill. "One current example of the amount of time that an audit can require is the fact that two and a half years after the 1976 presidential election, the Federal Election Commission has not issued its required audit of presidential campaign finances. To further dramatize this situation, the Federal Election Commission has not completed campaign audits on numerous presidential candidates who eventually dropped out of the presidential race before the nominating convention in 1976.

"It is our responsibility to insure that the concerns of the American people in the manner in which their tax dollars are spent is protected. Their interests can not be protected if the statute of limitations slips by and alleged violators of election laws can not be prosecuted simply because the Federal Election Commission has not completed its audit."

Besides the Carter campaign, audits are still incomplete for Democrats Fred Harris, Sargent Shriver and Morris Udall. The campaign audit for then-President Ford was completed a year ago.