

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE SAYS CHRYSLER RELIEF LIKELY; BLAMES GOVERNMENT REGULATION

CHICAGO-- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas), ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, said today that he will give the Chrysler Corporation's request for tax and regulatory relief his careful consideration, adding that there is "much appeal to the company's complaint that government regulation has helped place them in their current unfavorable position."

Dole added that he believes it would be dangerous to the American economy to simply let Chrysler "go under."

"Obviously the failure of the nation's third largest automaker would be a disaster for the 130,000 employees directly affected," said Dole. "But it would also produce a ripple effect throughout the economy and would raise some serious anti-trust questions concerning General Motors and Ford."

Chrysler A Symptom

"It is also clear to me that the situation at Chrysler is, in a very real sense, symptomatic of much that is wrong in American business today. And while we pay a great deal of attention to the Chrysler request, as we must, we should not forget that there are hundreds of small businesses across this nation that are also tottering on the brink-- often because of excessive government interference and regulation," said Senator Dole.

"In the Chrysler case, the federal government literally bombarded the company with costly new environmental, health, safety and fuel efficiency standards in recent years. These burdens, which disproportionately impact on the smaller companies in a given industry, have pushed Chrysler to the verge of bankruptcy. Thus, to the extent that further examination substantiates Chrysler's claims, some legislative relief to aid Chrysler would seem appropriate."

Senator Dole noted that "the Chrysler situation should serve as a warning to the Congress and the Administration about the effects of excessive regulation. While the goals set forth in virtually all of these regulations are, in the abstract, laudable, they often produce economic chaos," said Dole.