

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE INSTRUMENTAL IN CRIMINAL CODE AMENDMENTS

WASHINGTON -- Yesterday's vote by the Senate Judiciary Committee to favorably report the Criminal Code Reform Act of 1979 represented the successful culmination of extensive efforts by Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) to improve this legislation. During the course of the Judiciary Committee markup of this legislation, Dole, working in conjunction with the Justice Department, offered a series of amendments aimed at improving the ability of federal law enforcement authorities to investigate and prosecute organized crime.

One such amendment gives the Labor Department inspector general's investigators law enforcement authority, including the power to arrest. This "labor guard" police force would be used to combat the activities of organized crime in labor-related strikes, threats and violence. Another Dole amendment increases the power of courts to require the forfeiture of the proceeds of a racketeering syndicate. Other Dole provisions make the commission of "arson for hire" and "murder for hire" a federal crime.

Many of Dole's efforts were directed towards provisions of the proposed Criminal Code which involve drug trafficking, including an amendment toughening the penalties for trafficking in high quantities of narcotics. Another Dole amendment closes a loophole in the federal drug statutes which has become a growing problem. In attempting to buy narcotics from a suspected trafficker, undercover agents are often sold a harmless substance represented to be the narcotic. Thus the trafficker reaps the sweep of present drug statutes. Dole's amendment would extend federal jurisdiction to this activity.

In the area of bail, Senator Dole worked closely with Senator Hatch and Senator Kennedy to persuade the committee to accept an amendment allowing a judge to take into account a suspect's danger to the community when deciding to impose certain conditions, including detention, on that suspect's release on bail. Presently, a judge may only consider the likelihood of a suspect's return for trial in the bail process. While Dole says this amendment is a step in the right direction, he may offer a more stringent "preventive detention" amendment when this legislation is debated on the Senate floor. Last year, Dole successfully offered such a preventive detention amendment which the Senate accepted.

Criminal activity by so-called "cults" has been a long-standing concern of Senator Dole. He successfully proposed an amendment making the fraudulent solicitation of property a felony, requiring that any solicitor disclose the true name and identity of the organization on whose behalf he is soliciting at any airport, train or bus terminal.

Other Dole amendments make the fraudulent obtaining of over \$100,000 in insurance proceeds by arson a federal offense, toughen the penalties for jumping bail, and toughen penalties for felonies committed by juveniles.

Senator Dole has indicated his intention to participate fully in the floor debate of this bill. In this regard, he has suggested that he may offer an amendment on the floor which would exempt American citizens from criminal liability for the acts of foreign joint partners under the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, and an amendment which would reduce the penalty for violation of Title I of the Gun Control Act of 1968, from a felony to a misdemeanor.