

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE ANNOUNCES ANTI-DISCRIMINATION HEARINGS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, today announced hearings on legislation that would strip tax-exempt status from private schools that practice racial discrimination.

The hearings are scheduled for Monday, February 1, before the Senate Finance Committee.

"Let these hearings be a clear signal to the country that Congress will not tolerate sanctions for racial discrimination, or any other economic loopholes for philosophies that are contrary to the principles of American democracy," said Dole.

Senator Dole, working with the White House and the Senate Finance Committee, is currently drafting legislation that will end tax exemption for schools practicing racial discrimination. It is anticipated a mock-up of that bill will be completed tomorrow, with a final proposal facing members of Congress when they reconvene next Monday.

In a letter received from the White House today, the President called for swift action on the tax exemption question. Below are excerpts from the text of that letter:

"I am herewith submitting to the Congress proposed legislation that would prohibit tax exemptions for any schools that discriminate on the basis of race. This proposed legislation is sensitive to the legitimate special needs of private religious schools.

"I pledge my fullest cooperation in working with you to enact such legislation as rapidly as possible, and urge that you give this matter the very highest priority.

"I have been advised by the Secretary of the Treasury that he will not act on any applications for tax exemptions filed in response to the IRS policy announced on January 8, until the Congress has acted on this proposed legislation.

"I feel this legislative action is important to and desired by all citizens of this great Nation; I am confident that you will give this issue the prompt attention it deserves."

According to Senator Dole, a key component of the Administration's bill will close any gaps that would allow racially discriminatory private schools from collecting tax benefits before legislation is passed by Congress.