

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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O'NEILL CRITICISM CLOUDS NEED FOR SUBSTANTIVE SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM

WASHINGTON -- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Dole (R-Kan.), responding to House Democratic leadership's pledge to postpone any action on changes in the Social Security system, said that "current half-step measures proposed by the Democratic leadership, mainly interfund borrowing solutions, only cloud the need for substantive reform of the Social Security system."

"Apparently Tip O'Neill is satisfied to let his party abdicate the immense responsibility we have to restore the health of the Social Security system," Dole said. "The American people -- especially those collecting and about to collect from the system -- are concerned about the solvency of the system. I believe most of them know that without reform now we face sure ruin down the road.

"Tip O'Neill and other House Democrats are saying to those people, 'Don't look to us to make those hard choices, look to the President.'

"Unfortunately, we are witnessing the politicization of this crucial issue, and I think that Americans will note that it will be responsible Republicans and Democrats who will be working together in the next few weeks to fashion a workable reform program to save this system. Any alterations will be made with care and foresight. We will work for the good of the Social Security recipients for years to come, not for any short-term political gains that can be made by demagoguing this issue."