

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1983

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
202/224-6521

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE CONSIDERATION OF SOCIAL SECURITY FINANCING AMENDMENTS

TODAY THE HOUSE WILL VOTE ON THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE BILL, H.R. 1900, THE "SOCIAL SECURITY ACT AMENDMENTS OF 1983." IT IS MY HOPE THAT TODAY AND TOMORROW THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL COMPLETE ITS WORK ON SIMILAR LEGISLATION. IF WE ARE SUCCESSFUL HERE AT THE COMMITTEE, AND IF THE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE IS SUCCESSFUL IN THE HOUSE, WE WILL BE ON OUR WAY TO RESOLVING--AT LEAST FOR THE NEAR FUTURE--THE SERIOUS FINANCING PROBLEMS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM. CONFIDENCE AMONG BENEFICIARIES AND TAXPAYERS ALIKE IN THE SURVIVAL OF THE PROGRAM WILL BE BOLSTERED BY OUR SUCCESS. ONE OF THE MOST SENSITIVE ISSUES OF RECENT YEARS WILL BE LAID TO REST, AGAIN, AT LEAST FOR THE NEAR FUTURE.

HOWEVER, AS WE GO ABOUT THIS DIFFICULT AND IMPORTANT TASK, I URGE MY COLLEAGUES HERE ON THE COMMITTEE TO REMEMBER THE EXPERIENCE OF 1977 WHEN IT WAS CLAIMED THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM HAD BEEN SOLVED WELL INTO THE NEXT CENTURY. WE MUST MAKE NO SUCH CLAIMS NOW. RECENT HISTORY HAS PROVEN HOW DELICATE AND UNPREDICTABLE THE ECONOMY IS. WE MUST ASSUME THAT THIS SITUATION WILL CONTINUE AND WE MUST PLAN ACCORDINGLY. OPTIMISTIC ASSUMPTIONS AND ROSY PREDICTIONS--FOR THE SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUNDS--MUST BECOME THINGS OF THE PAST. I HOPE THAT THIS COMMITTEE WILL APPROVE A PACKAGE, BASED ON THE BIPARTISAN CONSENSUS OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON SOCIAL SECURITY REFORM, WHICH WILL PROVIDE A MARGIN OF SAFETY FOR THE SOLVENCY OF THE SYSTEM. REAL CONFIDENCE IN THE FUTURE OF THE SYSTEM, REAL SECURITY FOR TODAY'S RETIREES, WILL ONLY BE ESTABLISHED IF WE ARE HONEST ABOUT OUR TASK AND HONEST ABOUT ITS RESULT.

IT IS MY BELIEF THAT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE UP TO THE JOB OF SAVING THE PROGRAM NOW AND IN THE FUTURE. OUR DECISIONS HERE TODAY IN THE FINANCE COMMITTEE WILL BEAR ME OUT.