

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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DOLE REFUTES "BLANK CHECK" POLICY FOR THE PENTAGON

ON ABC'S "GOOD MORNING AMERICA"

WASHINGTON -- Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Dole, appearing on ABC-TV's "Good Morning America" show, said today that the defense budget cannot be off-limits to budget cuts this year. Appearing on the show with Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger, Dole responded to questions about the Senate Budget Committee's decision Friday to limit the defense budget increase to 5%.

"I know defense is very important, and I'm a strong supporter of the President, but if you're going to have a change across the board in all the programs, you can't eliminate defense. You can't give the Pentagon a blank check--and they've had a blank check for a couple of years," Dole said.

Dole reminded viewers that the Budget Committee numbers are only targets reached through non-binding assumptions from one committee and that there will be votes, and possible changes, on the Senate floor.

"I am going to support the President, and I hope we can have a higher number (the defense budget increase), but it's not going to be 10%. We'd like the Pentagon to cooperate a little more. We're cutting a lot of programs up here."

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