

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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DOLE AMENDMENT TIGHTENS PENTAGON SPENDING --  
WEAPONS SYSTEMS SHOULD PASS TESTS

WASHINGTON -- Late today the Senate unanimously approved an amendment authored by Kansas Senator Bob Dole that could stop the full scale production of weapons systems until they have cleared operational testing.

The amendment, attached to the Defense Department's Authorization Bill, would require a report to Congress from the Secretary of Defense explaining in detail why a particular weapons system has not yet passed operational testing and what are the risks and benefits of proceeding with full scale production.

"During the past fiscal year, defense spending for weapons, arms and equipment totaled \$80.2 billion. It's obvious we need to make sure we're getting our moneysworth," Dole said. "Some of the increasing costs can be pinned to inflation and the complexity of the technology involved. But some of these costs can be directly linked to poor initial design which must later be corrected.

"I don't see why Congress should fund full scale production until the weapons systems check out in the field," Dole said. "We don't want to fall into the expensive habit of routinely authorizing and appropriating large sums of money for concurrent development and production of new weapons systems without adequate review."

Dole noted that his amendment would not prohibit the concurrent development and production of systems when the need is justifiable. According to the Kansas Republican, the amendment simply focuses more attention on Pentagon funding with a view toward long-range spending control.