

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 3, 1983

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-6521

DOLE URGES IMMEDIATE ACTION ON DEFICIT CRISIS --
CALLS FOR PRESIDENTIAL LEADERSHIP, CONGRESSIONAL SPENDING RESTRAINT

WASHINGTON -- Fearing that Congressional and Administration inaction on massive federal deficits will choke off economic recovery, Kansas Senator Bob Dole today made an urgent call for Presidential leadership and an economic summit meeting between the Administration and Congressional leaders.

"Anyone who believes that the economy is going to keep chugging along with those huge deficits in tow is living in a dream world," Dole said.

"We need a domestic budget summit, one that will have to begin with the President and with the Congress," Dole said. "The question is not when to act. The time is now, not after the '84 elections."

Dole, Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, pointed to recent economic signs that show the untouched deficits are beginning to eat into the recovery: rising interest and mortgage rates, a skittish stock market and lower bond prices. Unless there is quick action, he says, the recovery could bottom out sometime in 1984.

"A legislature that cannot mobilize itself to deal with the most serious domestic concern facing the nation cannot be taken seriously," Dole warned. "That concern -- the fate of the economic recovery as it is linked with the huge deficits projected for the years ahead -- ought to be at the heart of our legislative agenda. Instead it is a sort of a sideshow -- it's business as usual on Capitol Hill, with spending on automatic pilot."

The Chairman urged the Administration to meet with leaders from both parties during the Congressional recess.

"The August recess is the perfect time to tackle the risk of renewed recession. We need to sit down and begin working out, at least at the staff level, the outlines of the kind of deficit reduction package that can have a real impact. We need to start the effort to explain to the public what the stakes are, and to build a consensus on the kinds of tough action that are needed to protect the recovery. If we do not, the public will remember our failure, and no one will escape blame. This is one summit that must be reached," Dole concluded.