

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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DOLE SALUTES RECORD DROP IN UNEMPLOYMENT  
ENCOURAGING STATISTICS SHOULD SPUR ACTION ON SOARING DEFICITS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Robert J. Dole (R.-Kan.), Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said today's encouraging news about declining unemployment rates should be just the tonic needed to spur Congressional and Administration action on the soaring federal deficits which threaten sustained robust economic recovery.

Dole hailed today's Labor Department report that showed the nation's unemployment rate declining to 8.4% in November, a decline of 0.4 percentage points. Over the last two months, the unemployment rate has plummeted by nearly a full percentage point, the strongest two-month showing in decades.

"This is great news for the American worker," said Dole. "It demonstrates that the recovery is on track where it counts, in the pocketbooks of Americans. Over the last year, the unemployment rate has fallen by nearly 2.4 percentage points, 3.6 million new jobs have been created, and the number of jobless Americans is down by 2.7 million. At the same time, the President's economic program has brought inflation nearly to a halt."

"Those of us who supported the President's economic program can be proud of what this basic change in policies has brought. However, we have a responsibility to ensure that the good news on inflation and unemployment will continue through 1984 and beyond. The best way to ensure continued prosperity is to remove the last impediment to a sustained, noninflationary recovery -- the huge federal deficit. Today's good news should only serve to strengthen our resolve to take those necessary steps to reduce the budget deficit when we return in February."