

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE BACKS NO-TAX TALK

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND -- U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today backed remarks by the Administration's chief spokesman that taxes are not in the mix for this year's budget.

Speaking from Geneva where he is heading the Senate Observer Team to the U.S./U.S.S.R. Nuclear Arms Control talks, Dole voiced strong support for the President's anti-tax stance as outlined this morning by White House Spokesman Larry Speakes.

"I agree with the President. We shouldn't be looking at taxes...period. Once we start down the tax path, spending cuts will be left in the dust. There are more than enough areas in the budget that need cutting without resorting to taxes -- we shouldn't let Congress off the hook that easily," Dole said.

"As far as I know, the Senate isn't interested in raising taxes. Budget Chairman Domenici is doing his best to get the President's budget -- or a budget as close as possible to the President's -- moving through the Senate. It's a tough assignment and he needs our support. It is my intention to help Pete Domenici get the kind of budget he and the President can support. There are a number of ways to do that, but time is short. Members who are trying to up the ante by throwing tax increases into the pot are just slowing things down."

"Let's face it, the tax issue was settled in November. Since that time, President Reagan has not wavered for one second from his opposition to a tax hike. We have to keep our eye on spending cuts, and more spending cuts, until we have absolutely exhausted that option."