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CONTACT: WALT RIKER,  
DALE TATE 202/224-3135

DOLE SAYS REAGAN RAISES ODDS FOR VICTORY

WASHINGTON---Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Kans.) tonight hailed President Reagan's speech on the budget compromise as "an eloquent statement that will turn the budget debate around."

Dole said that Reagan "hit all the right buttons by stressing the gains we will achieve for the American people if we have the courage to reduce the deficit and keep the recovery going."

President Reagan's address to the nation on the eve of the Senate budget debate, was planned to rally public support for the Senate-White House budget compromise. "The President got out the message the people need to hear: This is their budget. It is a fair and balanced plan that protects the taxpayer, the needy and all Americans, young and old," Dole added.

"This plan will go a long way to create jobs, get interest rates down, and keep inflation down," Dole said. "That is what Congress has to remember when it weighs the public interest-- as embodied in this budget-- against the special interests we all know so well."

"After months of rhetoric on the deficit dilemma, we are finally getting down to action," Dole continued. "We can stop complaining about the deficit and really do something about it. And the President's speech made clear that this is our best chance-- and maybe our only chance-- to reduce the deficit in a big way."

"Having Ronald Reagan on your side always raises the odds for victory," Dole concluded. "And that was reaffirmed tonight."