

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1987

(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601
DOLE: DEMOCRATS FORCING CONFRONTATION ON ABM TREATY

SIoux CITY, IOWA--SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KAN) TODAY ACCUSED SENATE DEMOCRATS OF TRYING TO INCITE A CONFRONTATION WITH THE PRESIDENT OVER THE ISSUE OF INTERPRETATION OF THE ABM TREATY. "DEMOCRATS ARE TALKING ABOUT A 'CONSTITUTIONAL CONFRONTATION' OVER THE ABM ISSUE," DOLE SAID. "WELL, THERE IS A CONFRONTATION BREWING, BUT IT'S THE DEMOCRATS WHO WANT IT AND ARE CAUSING IT.

"The President doesn't want a fight, and neither do I. But we're not going to back down when the security of the country and the integrity of the Constitution are at stake."

The issue arose as a result of a letter to the President from Sam Nunn, Democratic Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee. In his letter, Nunn said the President was inciting a "constitutional confrontation of profound proportions" by contemplating a change in how U.S. defense policies will be shaped by its interpretation of the ABM Treaty.

"This is not a new issue," Dole said. "The President and his advisers have been looking at it for more than two years, and announced months ago they believed the broad interpretation of the ABM Treaty was a valid one. Sam Nunn, and everyone else in Congress, knows that very well.

"But the Democrats are trying to turn a legitimate difference of opinion into a crisis. The only people who can be happy about another pitched battle between the President and Congress on an arms control issue are the leaders in the Kremlin.

"In fact," Dole concluded, "Democrats might do better to address their letters of outrage to Gorbachev. They could warn him that the massive Soviet violations of the ABM Treaty, such as building the illegal Krasnoyarsk radar, have the potential to generate a real 'confrontation of profound proportions' with the Free World."

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

SENATOR DOLE WILL HOLD A PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY IN SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI AT 3:25 PM (CST). PLACE: THE UNIVERSITY PLAZA HOTEL; THE TEXAS ROOM; 333 JOHN Q. HAMMONS STREET, SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI. CONTACT: 417-864-7333.

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