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DOLE CALLS FOR EXPEDITED HEARINGS ON JUDGE BORK

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) TODAY SAID HE REGRETTED THE DECISION TO DELAY HEARINGS ON THE NOMINATION OF JUDGE ROBERT H. BORK TO THE SUPREME COURT UNTIL MID SEPTEMBER.

"There is absolutely no substantive reason why we have to wait more than two months to begin the nomination hearings," Dole said.

"Judge Bork is ready and eager to go before the Committee. The Republicans on the Judiciary Committee are willing to stay here during the August recess if necessary. Whatever the ultimate decision, we need to get the process moving so the Supreme Court will be at full strength for its fall session."

"I hope this is not the final word on the hearing schedule. I will try to meet with Majority Leader Byrd, Senators Biden and Thurmond to see if there isn't some way we can push the schedule up. The American people know that it's critical to fill the seat on the Supreme Court. And the Senate should do everything it can to fulfill its duty as quickly as possible."