

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

NON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE 202
225-2715

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE:
210 FEDERAL BUILDING
TCHINSON, KANSAS 67501

Congress of the United States
MAY 16, 1966
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COUNTIES:
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BARTON JEWELL RENO
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WASHINGTON-Rep. Bob Dole in a speech in the House of Representatives Monday

day challenged the Congress and the American people to continue efforts to approve a reapportionment amendment.

Dole stated, "It is fundamental that any attempt to amend the Constitution of the United States must be approached with great caution, for Americans do not take the basic blueprint of their freedom lightly. We make it a long, difficult, and time-consuming process, in order to insure that any constitutional change reflects not momentary impulse or hysteria, but the thoughtful expression of the will of the majority of the American people. Nevertheless, there are times when a constitutional amendment is required as a last resort in resolving basic differences over the form of our government.

"I believe that we face such a situation today, notwithstanding action taken by the Senate on April 20, 1966. The United States Supreme Court's decision regarding the apportionment of state legislatures has raised just such a basic conflict over the form of our representative government.

During the fifteen minute speech on the House floor, Dole discussed the basic issue involved.

"Now what is this issue? It involves the very basis of our system of government.

"It involves our right to vote.

"It involves our claim to representative government.

"It involves our heritage as Americans, a heritage that says that as individuals under God, we have an inalienable freedom to choose--to decide--to participate--with regard to the affairs of our government.

"The right of the people to do just these things has been challenged, and unless we in Congress act now, those who oppose the people's rights to shape their political institutions will triumph.

"The Supreme Court has ruled that both Houses of the state legislatures must be apportioned solely on the basis of population. This ruling invalidates for the states the system of balanced representation so long practiced by them and by the U. S. Congress itself."

In concluding, Dole said that Congress had a duty to recognize the right of the people to vote on the composition of our representative government and therefore had a duty to approve the reapportionment amendment and submit it to the states for ratification. "In the final analysis, the people should decide."