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BOB DOLE

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1st District, Kansas

243 Cannon House Office Building

Area Code 202

225-2715

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE: 210 FEDERAL BUILDING HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67501

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

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NOT FOR RELEASE UNTIL SATURDAY NOON, APRIL 8, 1967

In a speech to the Kansas State Convention of the Veterans of World War I in Salina today, Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans) stated, "No subject in the vast and complex body of laws that are called veterans' affairs commands more attention today than the pension program. Over the past several years, many potential solutions have been offered. Some have advocated a separate pension program for World War I veterans. Others have suggested that Social Security benefits not be counted as income for pension purposes. Some have recommended that earned income be excluded as income for pension purposes when veterans reach the age of 72 years. Still others have requested a substantial increase in the income limitations of existing law.

"Unfortunately, the major veterans organizations have each supported a different solution to the pension question. No matter how many different ideas are advanced -- no matter which solution contains the most merit, one indisputable fact is crystal clear -- A pension increase for World War I veterans is long overdue."

In discussing recent Supreme Court cases, Congressman Dole said, "Equal justice under law" -- the inscription carved in bold letters over the imposing entrance to the Supreme Court Building -- suggests that the nation's highest tribunal is dedicated to the concept of equal justice under law. The fact is that the Court, in major rulings in criminal cases in recent years, has been dispensing a brand of justice that is deplorably unequal.

"The process of shielding the criminal at the expense of the public safety grew out of a laudable purpose to erect safeguards against criminal convictions based on coerced or involuntary confessions. There was ample reason for this some 25 or 30 years ago. For the third degree, even in those relatively recent days, had not disappeared from the law-enforcement scene. And a coerced confession is both offensive to one's sense of justice and unreliable as an item of evidence. The trouble is that the Court has not known where to stop, has lost all sense of keeping the scales in balance."