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> GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS DISTRICT OFFICE:

HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67501

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

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REGULAR WEEKLY NEWS RELEASE

FOR RELEASE: WEEK OF APRIL 10

From the office of CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE (R-KANS) 243 House Office Building Washington, D. C. 225-2715

WASHINGTON, D. C. --- Congressman Bob Dole has introduced a bill to raise the limitation upon the amount of outside income which an individual may earn while receiving Social Security benefits from the present ceiling of \$1,500 annually to \$3,600 annually.

"Thousands of Americans must deplete their savings, sell their homes, and rely on relatives and private organizations because the present Social Security benefit and earnings limitations relegate them to a near poverty level existence," according to the Congressman. "Increased maximum benefits voted in recent years, combined with the present maximum earnings limitations, barely permit an individual to rise above the poverty level. The high cost of living is here now, and those presently living on fixed incomes are having great difficulty waiting for the maximum benefits to be made available.

"There are many instances where individuals are able to work, want to work and jobs are available to them," Dole continued, "but they must sharply curtail their working hours since possible earnings would exceed the unrealistic earning limitations. The present law tends to destroy the incentive through which this country has achieved its great strength and discourages many elder citizens who have valuable skills which can contribute materially to the economic well-being of this Nation. Certainly, these citizens should be encouraged, not frustrated, in the desire to use their full capabilities.

"I urge prompt passage of this legislation to remove the existing inequities and discriminatory practices penalizing those who are entitled to the benefits which they have earned after long years of contribution and sacrifice," Dole declared. "We continue to discuss ways and means of improving the lot of our elder citizens. This is one of the best ways to help those who wish to help themselves."