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AGRICULTURE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS DISTRICT OFFICE: 101 FEDERAL BUILDING

GREAT BEND, KANSAS 67530 AREA CODE 316 SW 3-5423 **Congress of the United States** House of Representatives Mashington, D.C. 20515

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FOR RELEASE: MONDAY, JUNE 19, 1967

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Changes in Social Security Survivors' Benefits Proposed

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans) today introduced legislation to amend the Social ecurity Act to increase the amount of benefits due an individual at his death which ay be paid directly to his surviving spouse.

The Social Security Amendments of 1965 changed the requirements regarding the ayment of amounts due deceased individuals. Under these amendments, the present aw provides that when a beneficiary dies before completion of payment due him, the mount due may be paid only to a legal representative of his estate and not directly b his widow or other survivors. The only exception to this requirement is where he amount due does not exceed one month's benefit, it may be paid to a surviving pouse who was living in the same household with the decedent at the time of his eath.

Congressman Dole explained, "My bill provides that when an individual dies afore completion of any payment of Social Security benefits due him, payment of the mount due up to \$500.00 can be made directly to the surviving spouse without being included in the estate. Any payments due in excess of \$500.00 would be included in the estate."

"Present regulations often result in undue expense, inconvenience, and even undship for the deceased beneficiary's family," Congressman Dole stated. "It is oped Congress will act on this legislation to alleviate this situation where attoreys' fees and other estate administration costs often eat up almost the total amount efore the survivors can hope to benefit."