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

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CONGRESSMAN DOLE REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON

FOR RELEASE: WEEK OF OCTOBER 2, 1967

TWENTY YEARS OF FEDERAL SPENDING

In this modern age Americans are becoming accustomed to statistics involving concepts which were beyond human understanding just a few years ago. Consider, for instance, the five million mile journey taken by Colonel Frank Borman and Commander James Lovell in Gemini VII. Or consider the population estimate, believed by most authorities to be accurate, which projects our national human inventory to over 300 million persons by the year 2000---when today's high school seniors are only fifty one years old. These large figures we have taken in stride, and hope we understand. But for sheer bigness and near incomprehensibility, consider the fact that the federal government has spent nearly 1.75 trillion dollars in the past twenty years. During the last fiscal year alone, our federal government spent \$155.3 billion.

Per Capita Increases

In 1948, federal expenditures per person totaled \$249, while today they total approximately \$813, an increase of 226%. Part of this increase must include inflation, to be sure, since the erosion of the dollar has continued unabated during many of the past twenty years. But in constant dollars, the "real" increase in federal spending for every man, woman, and child has been 133% since 1948.

High Spending Continues

This trend certainly does not show any sign of reversal. The estimate of federal spending---all federal spending---for fiscal 1968 was set at \$172.4 billion last January, and is rising at the present time. The President continues to believe that he can support both the war in Asia and his social welfare programs here at home. This week the House Ways and Means Committee is considering the President's tax increase proposal---an increase which would not begin to meet this year's estimated \$30 billion deficit in the administrative budget. With today's hard pressed taxpayer in mind, the answer is not higher taxes. The only solution to the financial situation that this nation faces is a severe cutback in domestic spending. While the war rages on in Vietnam, the Administration cannot continue to introduce social programs of untested and questionable value here at home.