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FOR KANSAS WEEKLIES: FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

WASHINGTON, D.C., July 19 -- Congressman Bob Dole, meeting with Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, Director of the Selective Service, outlined an eight-point plan "to achieve some urgently needed draft reforms."

yesterday (July 18)
In the conference/in the Congressman's office here, Dole said, "With draft calls continuing to affect so many of our nation's young people, it is vital to make the draft as fair and as just as possible"

Dole's draft reform suggestions include:

- 1) establishment and enforcement of national standards for occupational deferments;
- 2) explicit provisions for deferments for all full-time students in good standing at junior and community colleges, and equitable treatment for part-time students in essential fields of study;
- 3) extension of deferments -- but not exemptions -- to students already in graduate school, allowing them to finish their graduate work before entering military service;
- 4) removal of the current prohibition against a lottery in order to open other possible avenues of approach to the selection of inductees;
- 5) giving Congress the power, now held by the President, to suspend student deferments in time of war or national emergency;
- 6) requirements that, except in time of war, physical and mental standards for induction through the draft be no lower than those for volunteer enlistment;
- 7) requirements that draft quotas be set far enough in advance to permit local boards to give draftees at least 30 days' notice before induction, and
- 8) reiteration of Congress' statement of intent that military manpower needs should be met as much as possible by volunteers.

Dole said later he plans to incorporate the ideas into a bill and introduce it before the end of the year.

"Last year", Dole said, "2338 Kansas men were called by the draft. Surely we can assure Kansans and all others across the nation that future selection will be intelligent, impartial and just."

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"My ideas on draft reform," he said, "will not eradicate all the problems connected with the draft. They represent some urgently needed reforms, however, to inject some justice into a system, which is patently unjust."

Dole's conference with Hershey results from letters the Congressman sent to President Johnson and Hershey last week, urging them "to reduce the draft calls for Kansas in the months ahead because of the unusually heavy number of Kansans involuntarily mobilized this year."

Dole told Hershey that Kansas, with 1.12 percent of the U.S. population, provided 16.2 percent of the total National Guard and Armed Forces Reserves mobilization in May. The number of Kansans activated for June, July and August are also high, he added.

The Congressman said General Hershey agreed to review his request that Kansas draft calls be reduced. He also said General Hershey plans to compare the current Kansas situation with records of call-up, induction and mobilization in the state during the Korean war.

"He was most sympathetic and understands the fact that Kansas was hard hit," he added. "While he could give no assurance that favorable action will be taken, the General indicated his complete willingness to cooperate."

Pointing out he is not objecting to the fact the Kansans were called to active duty, Dole said, "Still it seems only equitable that the Kansas draft calls in the future should be lowered to compensate for the disproportionate number of Kansas units mobilized in May and the succeeding months."