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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. MONDAY, SEPT. 22, 1969---U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said today that Senator Howard Baker of Tennessee is within striking distance of being elected leader of the Senate Republicans.

"Baker received a big boost when Senator Hruska of Nebraska withdrew from the race and personally asked his supporters to vote for Baker," Dole said. "Hruska is highly respected by the moderate and conservative Republican Senators."

Dole said that both Baker and Scott are highly qualified, but that each Senator must decide whether he wants "liberal" or "moderate" Republican leadership.

"Senator Scott, for the most part, reflects the views of liberal Republican Senators while Senator Baker for the most part would reflect the views of Republican Senators of differing ideology," he added.

Dole pointed out that Senator Baker was the first popularly elected Republican to the U.S. Senate from the State of Tennessee. "I would also point out to those who feel Baker needs more experience that both Baker's mother and father served in Congress from Tennessee. His brother-in-law, Bill Wampler, is presently a Republican Congressman from Virginia and his father-in-law was the late Senator Everett Dirksen."

Dole said election of the 43-year-old Baker as Senate Republican leader would have a positive impact throughout America.

"The fact that he has consistently rejected extremism from either side of the political spectrum would be helpful to all Republican Senators seeking re-election next year," Dole said. "If the Republican Party is to move forward and become the majority party, we need young, progressive and positive leadership."