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WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 24---U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said the report of the Kansas Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs "is a heartening example of how effective local action can help solve this nation's demanding domestic problems." 82

In a statement in the Senate, Dole added, "It is time Washington tuned in to those who are and who have been on the firing line, volunteering their efforts to help make their own communities better places in which to live and work."

Former U.S. Senator Frank Carlson, Concordia, and Mrs. Verne W. Alden, Wellsville, served as co-chairmen for the 35-member Kansas committee, appointed by Dole in June to analyze and make recommendations on food and public assistance programs in the state.

Dole, a member of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, said the report "offers valuable recommendations and guidance for the Senate, particularly when it considers S. 2547, the food stamp bill." The Senator also said he will send the report to Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin and to Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare Robert Finch.

Noting the committee's survey shows 76 percent of Kansas' public assistance recipients participate in a food program, Dole said, "The roadblock for those in other counties is not lack of need or lack of desire, but lack of population which makes implementation of either the food stamp or commodity distribution programs impractical."

"This is a particularly difficult problem not only for Kansas, but also for other densely populated areas of other states," he added. "There is merit to the committee's recommendation that consideration be given to combining administration of food assistance programs in thinly-populated counties."

On the committee's recommendation to step up nutrition education efforts, Dole said, "This is a sound suggestion, and one which must accompany any proposed expansion of food assistance programs. Distributing food stamps or commodities is of little help to a disadvantaged family when they may not know how to purchase or prepare nutritious, low-cost meals."