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WASHINGTON, D.C. Oct. 9---U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) has joined the effort to mint an Eisenhower silver dollar containing 40% silver.

In the past several weeks, opposition to minting a 40% coin engraved with the image of the late President Dwight D. Eisenhower has arisen. Opponents support a nonsilver coin because of a federal government decision to sell most of our government reserves of silver.

Dole's action came today when he co-sponsored an amendment to mint at least 300 million silver dollars containing 40% silver. Additional Eisenhower coins would be identical in appearance, but would contain no silver. The amendment was introduced Oct. 8 by U.S. Senator Peter Dominick (R-Colo.).

In a statement, Dole said, "We should honor late President Eisenhower, a popular statesman who served his country in peace and war with a prestige coin, not a mere token used primarily in Las Vegas gambling establishments."

"By Oct. 14, the late President's birthday, I feel quite strongly the Senate should pass this bill and present it to President Nixon for his signature. If this bill is not passed, Dwight D. Eisenhower will become the first President to have his image engraved on a commemorative coin of entirely scrap metal."

Noting the bill is a compromise, Dole said, "Three hundred million part-silver coins would at least assure that each citizen could receive one, with the government receiving full value for the silver."

"Whether we reserve the silver for the proposed Eisenhower dollar or permit continued government sales, we will be out of Treasury silver in about a year," Dole said. "The only practical question is whether the government receives \$3.16 per ounce for a silver dollar or \$1.85 an ounce in government sales."

"A silver coin would be a popular and lasting remembrance for a man whose life reflects the highest ideals and principles of this nation," Dole said.