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219

FOR RELEASE AFTER 12 NOON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1969

DENVER, Colo., Oct. 24 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said the Republican party has "excellent opportunities" to gain Senate seats in most states west of the Mississippi River in the 1970 elections.

Speaking here at a G.O.P. Congressional Boosters luncheon, Dole said, "1970 may well be the turning point for Republicans to gain control of the Senate and perhaps the House. I am particularly hopeful about most states west of the Mississippi which President Nixon carried last year."

"Next year we have 25 incumbent Democrats and only 10 Republicans running for re-election," Dole said. "We need only seven additional Republicans to win control of the Senate."

"Many of the incumbent Democrat Senators were first elected in 1958, a devastating year for the Republican party," he added. "These same men benefitted from the Johnson landslide in 1964. But 1970 will be different."

"The prospects for Republicans to unseat Democrat incumbents in many states are golden, and the opportunities to win should be seized and pursued now."

Dole said the greatest asset for Republican campaigns next year "is the bold, responsible leadership of the President."

"The winds of change and progress under the Nixon Administration have brought a breath of fresh air to the American people," he said. "It is this affirmative mood toward a constructive, responsible record which can be translated into solid victories at the polls next year."