

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE  
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WASHINGTON, D.C., Dec. 31 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said Tuesday's attack on the Nixon Administration by U.S. Senator Fred Harris, Democrat National Chairman, "illustrates that Republicans cannot undo in one year what Democrats did in eight."

Dole said, "The manner in which the Democrat Party handles its own finances best illustrates the ineptness of Democrat leadership. The Democrat Party, with a debt of nearly \$8 million, helps one understand why the national debt, under Democrat leadership from 1960 to 1968, increased from \$290 billion to \$358 billion."

"If a major political party cannot manage its own indebtedness," Dole added, "what can it do for America except to increase our already burdensome fiscal problems?"

"The Democrat Party has been a symbol of rising inflation, higher interest rates and an escalating war in Vietnam," Dole said.

He added that "to criticize President Nixon for not curing all these ills in one year is to be expected from the leader of the opposition party. One does wonder, however, where Senator Harris has been and why he failed between 1960 and 1968 to ask Democrat leaders to face up to realities."

"Under the leadership of President Nixon and Vice President Agnew," the Kansas Senator said, "progress has been made, and confidence is being restored in government at all levels. We are passing from an era of permissiveness inspired by and encouraged by the Democrats to an era of stability and responsibility.

"The American voter understands this and will demonstrate it at the polls in 1970," Dole predicted.

He said, "Without question, the principal achievement of the Nixon Administration has been Vietnamizing the war; hence, it is understandable why Senator Harris only briefly touched upon this."

"While Harris gave Nixon an 'I' for Incomplete on Vietnam, it should have been an 'I' for Inherited, not only with reference to Vietnam, but inflation and other domestic ills."

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Dole called upon Democrats in Congress to aid Nixon in his fight against inflation by voting to lower federal spending, "rather than voting to increase it at every opportunity."

"It may be politically popular, in the short run, to advocate more federal spending and lower taxes. However, this strategy can lead to fiscal chaos for those on fixed incomes and those in the lower and middle income classes."

Dole concluded by stating that "Senator Harris' comments concerning Vice President Agnew were not worthy of comment, but did indicate a recognition by the Democrat Chairman that the Vice President is a popular political figure among Democrats and Republicans throughout America."