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WASHINGTON, D.C. Jan. 22 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole today hailed President Nixon's state-of-the-union message as a "realistic and hopeful speech that not only lays out the state of the union, but one that also charts a program of national greatness for the 70's."

Dole singled out the President's comments about the role of the U.S. Congress, noting, "The President has placed the burden of solving the nation's pressing problems squarely on the shoulders of the Congress. It was a challenge sorely needed to combat crime, end inflation, balance the budget and tackle our critical problems. All of us -- Republicans and Democrats -- must give the President the legislative tools he needs to solve these problems so that we can proceed to tackle the long-term tasks the President outlined."