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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ROANOKE, VA. Feb. 2 -- "With the tragedy of a disaster, there is also opportunity -- the opportunity to improve people's lives and their living conditions," U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said here today.

Dole is ranking Republican on the Senate Public Works Disaster Relief Subcommittee which is holding hearings in Roanoke on Hurricane Camille.

"Disaster relief available must not be limited to temporary repair and rebuilding," he continued. "Nor can we allow assistance for physical recovery to merely reinforce systems of inequity and deprivation.

"In order to accomplish this, Federal programs must be made more responsive to people's needs. We must continue to seek better legislative solutions and upgrade our administrative procedures.

"We must secure the prompt response of personnel, trained and equipped for dealing before, during and after a disaster. This may involve reorganization of our office of Civil Defense and Office of Emergency Preparedness.

"I am hopeful that both our governmental efforts and those of private relief agencies can achieve these objectives."