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FOR RELEASE MARCH 14, 1970

386 DALLAS, Tex., March 14 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said here tonight that "some senators and members of the press have ignored the President's disclosures about American activities in Laos."

Speaking at a convention of Texas Young Republicans, Dole said that most of the facts "exposed" in the last few weeks about Laos were really "no news to anyone." "Our commitment there," he said, "is the same as it was at its inception in 1962 under President Kennedy, and as it was continued under President Johnson."

The Kansas senator said some of his colleagues are "seeking to create a credibility gap." "Those Democrats are desperately in search of an issue. Certainly Nixon cannot be blamed for Vietnam or Laos. The blame for these wars belongs on the backs of the Communist North Vietnamese and their Communist cohorts in China and Russia," Dole said.

He said it has been public knowledge that there are more than 60,000 North Vietnamese **troops in** Laos. Dole said the fact that the United States has been supplying materials, weapons and logistic support to the Laotians has also been public knowledge, "but some of those who are so vocal now, were strangely silent from 1962 to 1968."

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