

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., Aug. 29 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) speaking in Aberdeen, South Dakota today, stated his support of President Nixon's plan for American disengagement in South-east Asia.

At a testimonial dinner honoring Congressman Ben Reifel, (R-S. Dak.), Dole expressed his views on the so-called McGovern-Hatfield "End the War Amendment" which he terms the "Lose the Peace Amendment".

Charging that the "Lose the Peace Amendment" has gone through a series of changes with the present version representing the 5th change, Dole said, "Today's amendment, as I read it, says the President must have the troop level in Vietnam down to 280,000 by next April 30. This comes so close to the plan President Nixon announced on April 30, that one wonders if the drafters had their source material switched."

"Regardless of this similarity to the President's program, the meat of the fifth amended amendment declares, "after April 30, 1971, funds herein authorized or hereafter appropriated may be expended in connection with activities of American armed forces in and over Indochina only to accomplish the following objectives:"

- (1) Withdrawal of all American forces by December 31, 1971
- (2) Release of prisoners of war
- (3) Provisions of asylum for endangered Vietnamese
- (4) The supply of aid to South Vietnam

"This statement of objectives with its December 31, 1971, deadline is followed by a proviso that in the face of 'clear and present danger' to American armed forces the President may suspend the withdrawal deadline up to 60 days, or until March 1, 1972."

"All of the objectives are worthwhile and commendable, but they leave unanswered questions.

-What happens under this fifth version if the North Vietnamese attack in such a way and at such a time as to make impossible either the orderly termination of military operations or the safe and systematic withdrawal of remaining forces by

December 31, 1971, or March 11, 1972? And what precisely would constitute a clear and present danger to American forces?

-Where do we provide asylum for thousands and perhaps millions of South Vietnamese refugees, how do we know whose lives will be endangered until it is too late?

-What assurances do we have that the enemy will release their American prisoners under any circumstances?

-What assistance could we provide South Vietnam if our precipitate withdrawal turned that country over to the Viet Cong and the North Vietnamese?

"I cannot believe that the 'Lose the Peace Amendment' was introduced with the expectation that it would ever become law. Any observer of Washington knows that the Senate and the House will never pass it and NO President, Democrat or Republican, would ever sign it. But, since it has been advocated so vigorously and at such expense and with such considerable efforts to lobby and pressure members of the Senate, we are entitled to know why it was introduced and why it has been subjected to such fundamental, continuing and substantial change."

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