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FOR RELEASE SEPT. 3, 1970

KANSAS CITY, KANS., Sept. 3, -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today told the audience at the Johnson County Community College Convocation Day, "There is no place in American society for mindless destruction. Those who seek change through such methods openly invite repression."

The Kansas Senator cautioned the students, "You are entering a new school term at a difficult time in our history. From the left, we hear that the system is corrupt and it must be destroyed. From the right, it is 'trouble-makers' and 'outside agitators' who are to blame. Neither extreme helps to understand events."

Dole cited the war in Indochina as an issue of great importance to students and all Americans and expressed his hopes for a ceasefire in Vietnam.

"A bipartisan group of 14 Senators, including myself, on Tuesday of this week, wrote President Nixon, suggesting that David Bruce, our new Ambassador at the Paris Peace Talks, present a comprehensive proposal for an internationally supervised standstill ceasefire throughout Vietnam."

"This proposal was meant to be a positive contribution by the Congress and in no way implied criticism of the conduct of our Vietnam Peace Negotiations. We felt it was time for the United States to take a new peace initiative -- one that had not been considered during previous negotiations. We proposed that the ceasefire should include:

- a) International peacekeeping machinery required to oversee the ceasefire, the protection of minorities against terrorism and political reprisals, and withdrawal of all outside military forces within a specified period following the effective date of the ceasefire;
- b) The conduct of prompt free elections supervised by a mixed electoral commission in which the Government of Vietnam, The National Liberation Front, and the broad middle spectrum of religious and political forces are fairly represented, with all sides agreeing to accept the results of the elections;
- c) Safeguards to assure freedom of speech, assembly and the press to all the people of South Vietnam;

d) Release of all prisoners of war and political prisoners by both sides;

e) Economic and medical relief and assistance to bind the wounds of war and to provide for social and economic reconstruction in South and North Vietnam.

The Senator from Kansas once more cautioned, "Of course, our nation's problems -- both foreign and domestic -- will never be solved -- once and for all -- and for all time. Utopias are hard to find. As soon as one agenda is resolved, another will emerge, and yet another."

"But there is an improvement in the plateau upon which we operate. We move from strength to greater strength, from justice to more nearly perfect justice. Indeed, the fulfillment of our expectations and the continual heightening of these expectations has been the American experience."

"When historians write of this fantastic age, they may say, with Dickens, 'It was the best of times, it was the worst of times; everything was over, and yet everything was just beginning.' But we must say, 'We were there -- and we wouldn't have missed it. Our lives had meaning. And we made a difference!'"

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