

NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING

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WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 29, 1970 -- In an effort to break the Senate impasse on electoral reform U. S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today introduced an amendment which includes the principle of direct election and at the same time preserves some aspects of the electoral system.

In a statement on the Senate floor, Dole said, "With sole reliance on popular vote, the election of the President would be placed on even more unsure footing than it finds itself today. Thus the proposal has been advanced that some vestige of the present electoral system should be preserved as a back-up to direct election. There have been several such back-up systems suggested, but the one which seems to me to be the most reliable and the most in keeping with our past practices would be the so-called "Automatic" Electoral System. This system would eliminate the office of elector and the opportunities for capricious, unpredictable or unscrupulous behavior by individuals casting electoral votes. It would instead cast electoral votes automatically on the basis of the popular vote winner in each state."

Dole explained, "This means that a candidate who receives a majority of the popular vote will be elected President. However, if no one receives a popular vote majority the President will be chosen by electoral vote, and those votes would be cast automatically on the basis of the popular vote. Each state's entire electoral vote would go to the candidate with the most popular votes in that state."

"If no candidate received a majority of the electoral votes cast, the newly elected Congress, meeting in joint session, would then choose the President from the top two candidates in the electoral vote."