

557

STATEMENT BY U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
ON THE SENATE FLOOR
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1970

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

TRAGEDY FOR WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY

Mr. President:

All Americans were stunned and saddened by the deaths of thirty men and women who died Friday in an airplane crash in the Colorado mountains enroute to a football game with Utah State University.

To have so many lives lost in one accident is unbelievably tragic, but compounding the loss is the fact that those who died were young men at the height of their physical and intellectual development, and older men and women devoted to the young.

Thirteen who died were members of the Wichita State University football team. But there were others on board who were these young men's leaders and enthusiastic boosters. They loved football and the school. They worked, played and cheered; and this love and dedication makes this tragedy even more unbearable.

It was the Greeks who knew that within the great joy of life was the core of tragedy. It was the great poet Aeschylus who observed that it is an unnatural thing for parents to bury their young.

Now we citizens of Kansas grieve for those who bury their young, and because they belonged to all Kansans, we share their sorrow.

Nothing tests man more severely than these moments when the wishes of man and the will of God collide. It is as old as the story of Job; it is the cry on the lips of Christ when he asked why he was forsaken and it is as near as last Friday afternoon.

We may each, find separate paths to solace. Perhaps there is some peace in knowing that those we mourn today, in the poet's words:

"Will not swell the route
Of lads that wore their honors out."

And perhaps there is peace only in the strength that comes with resignation --- when we say, as we all must say, "May God's will be done."