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LEBANON, PA., Oct. 8 -- "The American people, in the last two years, have seen a new quality of leadership -- a leadership which has successfully taken on the task of re-ordering priorities and turning America around," U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said here tonight. Dole spoke at a dinner honoring Congressman Ed Eshleman.

"Again last evening, we saw this quality of leadership, this decisiveness that has become a hallmark of the Nixon Administration," Dole said. "As the nation watched, President Nixon detailed the most far-reaching peace initiative this nation has ever taken to end the war in Southeast Asia."

Dole, in reviewing the President's five-point plan for peace in Southeast Asia, termed the proposals "substantive and meaningful."

"Once again, President Nixon has moved decisively and firmly in providing the leadership which our country so desperately needs in these fast-paced and tumultuous times.

"But it is not enough to have a President we can rely on in the extremity. If the President is to move America forward, then he must have men around him he can depend on. He must have a Congress which will give him the legislation he needs to fulfill the mandate of the people. This Administration has accomplished much since coming into office.

"But much of what has been accomplished has been accomplished, not because of a Congress responding to Presidential initiatives and to the will of the people, but rather in spite of a Congress which has, all too often, reacted in fear and jealousy of the President's efforts, and in calculated defiance of the will of the people.

"The American people elected Richard Nixon because they wanted the war in Vietnam concluded quickly and honorably and they wanted the streets of America safe.

"Instead of supporting the President's efforts for peace, the peace-opportunists in Congress have hampered him at every step -- doing everything likely to prolong the intransigence of Hanoi. And at the same time, they criticize him for not bringing peace quickly enough.

"Efforts to pass the thirteen anti-crime bills the President sent to Congress have been hampered.

"If the President is to successfully wage peace in Southeast Asia and win the war against crime in America, he must have a Congress that will back him.

"We need strong men in the Congress -- men like Ed Eshleman."