

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. Oct. 9, 1970 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole today praised last night's Senate passage of amendments to the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968. Dole said the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA) created by that Act, has "shown that we as a nation are determined to do more about the crime problem than simply label it, lament it, or place blame for it.

"We will not accept crime as one of the unalterable hazards of the Twentieth Century.

"In the two years since the passage of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act, we have seen the establishment of the initial phases of a truly integrated system of criminal justice. For the first time in our nation's history the elements of that system -- police, courts and corrections -- are communicating and working together. For the first time every state has prepared a comprehensive crime control plan -- gathering the statewide data it probably never collected before, identifying specific problems, setting goals and priorities, and developing programs to cope with these problems. For the first time, on a statewide scale, and consequently on a nationwide scale, we are identifying the full extent of criminal justice problems and taking the initiative to correct them.

"The \$3 million my state of Kansas has received in the last two years is being used to improve law enforcement communications and equipment and the state is developing new college programs. Four county community junior colleges will offer associate degrees in law enforcement; Washburn University will offer a baccalaureate degree in penology and Wichita State University will offer a baccalaureate in police science."

Dole said Kansas is funding programs that will involve citizens in the crime prevention programs and is making a study to determine whether Kansas should create a unified court system.

"Another development in Kansas has been greatly enhanced by the LEAA program," Dole said. "We have cooperative ~~arrangements~~ among many law enforcement agencies that will effectively and economically improve public safety. An elite metropolitan police squad serves seven counties in the Kansas City, Kansas-Kansas City, Missouri area. A similar squad has begun in Topeka.

"In several areas, the county sheriff's department and the police department are combining facilities -- jails, communications, records systems and dispatching capabilities.

"While such cooperative efforts have not been impossible in the past," Dole said, "they are being encouraged under the national LEAA program.

"Under the authorized budget for Fiscal Year 1971, Kansas can expand the ambitious programs that have begun to take shape in the past two years.

"The anticipated allocation for Kansas in Fiscal Year 1971 includes \$322,000 for planning grants and \$3,955,000 for action grants. Other money will probably be made available through the Law Enforcement Education Program or the Discretionary Fund programs.

"These are by no means the total of Kansas' efforts. There are many other programs, all helping to shore up an overburdened criminal justice system. Each is important because each element of the system -- police, courts, corrections -- must be improved if we are to reduce crime. I am proud of these programs and believe they typify what is happening throughout the nation. I am gratified that we are making progress against one of the nation's most tenacious problems."