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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., JAN. 20, 1971 --- U.S. Senator Bob Dole today told the National Association of Retail Druggists, "Over a year and a half ago, President Nixon voiced his alarm that we are fast reaching the crisis point, indeed, a virtual breakdown in our health care systems."

Senator Dole said, "Since that time, the crisis in health care has become even more widely recognized, and the need for meaningful and expedited reform even greater. Today, I want to re-sound that alarm and emphasize the need for reform and bold new initiatives in bringing the nation's health and medical resources to bear on the needs of the American people."

Dole said that there was no single reason for the present state of affairs in our health delivery system. He warned that although it is obvious that an efficient system for delivery of health care and services must be provided, "Hasty measures would be foreordained to compound the problem, as happened with Medicare and Medicaid. As enacted, both funneled fresh dollars into costly, existing health-care systems. Billions of dollars were disgorged into these systems, without a 'game plan.'"

"Since President Nixon sounded the alarm," Dole said, "the Administration has been giving increasing attention to the health-care crisis."

The Kansas Senator predicted that soon after Congress convenes he expects to see presented one of the most innovative and forward-looking reform programs ever undertaken in this country.

Visualizing these programs, Dole said, "They will depart from traditional piecemeal practice of merely adding program-upon-program to an already unmanageable and ineffective web of bureaucrat stagnation. Instead, as the President has indicated, these reforms will be approached with a broad pattern of proposals, taking a comprehensive and systematic view of the problems and needs of our society."

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"They will seek to build into our health care system incentives toward more rational use of our existing facilities and resources. A primary emphasis will be on the stimulation of preventive medicine delivered where the need is most critical, by the most efficient means possible, and at the lowest cost. This theme will involve nearly every element of the overall health care system. It will affect training, distribution and organization of medical and paramedical personnel."

"It will involved the means whereby we assure adequate supervision of routine health needs in addition to supplying effective response to crisis situations in the lives of Americans. In short, these programs, with this theme underlying them, will touch virtually every aspect of what we know today as our health-medical system."