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FOR RELEASE: MARCH 4, 1971, THURSDAY

WASHINGTON MEMO

by. U.S. Senator Bob Dole

Congress is once again in full gear. New members are now successfully finding their way through the Capitol Building maze, legislation is beginning to move through Congressional channels, and visitors, getting a jump on the spring and summer tourist season, are adding to the interest and excitement on Capitol Hill.

Last week was a particularly active one, and legislatively, a good week. One of my bills introduced this Session, the Rural Telephone Bank Bill, was given a favorable report by the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee and is now on its way for consideration by the full chamber. Also last week, a number of important grants that Kansans had been waiting for, were announced.

Thursday evening I spoke in Washington, D.C. to the delegates of the National Farm Union Convention where I was able to meet with a number of Kansas farmers. Friday, I was in Wichita where I chaired a field hearing on Economic Development that was concerned with Wichita's economic problems that resulted from defense production cutbacks.

Earlier last week, our state had been struck by a severe storm, which brought with it hardships for many Kansans. In Washington, Congressman Sebelius and I did what we could to alleviate the problems, and were able to provide some transport planes from Forbes Air Force Base to help feed stranded livestock. I understood this was of some help for the Kansas ranchers, but there were many other Kansans who suffered personal or economic hardship because of the storm.

Of better news, however, is that the President has been communicating frequently with this Congress, the press and the American people. I felt that his Consumer Message and statement of foreign policy, last week, would be of particular interest to Kansans, as they are to all Americans.

CONSUMER MESSAGE

The President's second Consumer Message to Congress is both timely and comprehensive. The major legislative recommendations proposed in it include acts to:

- establish a program of product safety within the Department of Health, Education and Welfare
- enhance the opportunity of the Department of Justice to prohibit a broad but clearly defined range of practices that are unfair and deceptive to consumers
- provide for clearer warranties and prohibit the use of deceptive warranties
- provide incentives for increasing the amount of accurate relevant information to consumers about complex products

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I welcomed the President's proposals although I may not agree with every detail. Consumers' interests, for too long, have been neglected. At all income levels, but especially the poor and disadvantaged, consumers are acutely aware of the irritation and hardship suffered due to the application of a bygone theory, "let the buyer beware." The President is attempting to minimize this situation for the benefit of consumer and businessman alike. I will urge that his proposals be given a fair and adequate hearing and hope that we in Congress can work together with the various approaches being introduced, to enact the combination most meaningful to the individual consumer and the nation.

STATE OF THE WORLD

The President's state of the world radio summary and the full Presidential report on foreign affairs have served two important purposes: they have clearly set forth American foreign policy in a way the rest of the world can understand and take into account, and they give the American people a clear view of the reasons and goals behind our foreign policy.

The Nixon Doctrine is designed to update and clarify American policy in a period of global transition. While he made it clear that America will honor all of its international treaty obligations, and will continue in a world leadership role, he also declared an end to the era when America played the role of the lone policeman for the free world. From a position of paternalism, he is guiding us to a position of partnership with our allies. The free world nations that have long relied on American might and wealth as a global mainstay, are now being called on to do their full share --- for the first time since the end of World War II.

After a decade of drifting and confusion, President Nixon has given the American people a revitalized foreign policy and a new sense of unity and purpose.