

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SEN. BOB DOLE  
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510  
(202) 225-8947

\*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE\*

### President Signs Rural Telephone Bank Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 7 --- President Nixon signed into law today legislation introduced by Kansas Senator Bob Dole that provides the means for Rural America to gain telephone service equal to that in U.S. cities.

The Rural Telephone Bank Bill, or what is now known as the Dole-Poage Act, provides expanded financial assistance to rural telephone companies and cooperatives.

Dole's Senate bill was the first piece of rural development legislation to receive the President's signature this year.

The Kansas Senator first authored legislation that would assist rural telephone systems in 1965, when he was a member of the House of Representatives. Last year in the Senate, Dole, with Senator Herman E. Talmadge of Georgia, introduced a bill similar to the Dole-Poage Act, but the bill was not reported out of the House Committee on Agriculture after having passed the Senate.

Dole termed today's signing of the rural telephone bank legislation "a truly historic event for the many rural Americans who have limited, party-line telephone service, and especially for the 18 per cent of American rural residents who still are without any telephone service."

Dole explained that with the passage of the Dole-Poage Act, rural telephone companies and cooperatives will no longer have to depend strictly on government appropriations for financing because the rural telephone bank will generate supplemental loan funds from its initial capital investment.