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Advance
Dole speech

FOR RELEASE: OCTOBER 24, 1971, A.M., SUNDAY

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 24, 1971 --- "We are all victims of war," U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said in remarks prepared for Veterans Day services in Topeka, Kans., on Monday.

Addressing members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, he said Americans "no longer can afford the luxury of the delusion" that war is "a glorious and splendid thing," and that there is no longer a valid distinction between victors and victims.

Dole termed the war in Southeast Asia "a long and baffling experience, in which confusion has confounded our purposes and domestic conflict has grown from the seeds of foreign conflict."

He said this war differs from others in that its veterans "come home in anonymity to be met with indifference." The Kansas Senator and World War II veteran called upon Americans "to reach out to the returning veterans." He said one of the greatest problems for returning veterans is "just simple communications." He said:

Many have been through the most difficult time they will ever know in their lives. They have not been through these things with a feeling of their countrymen behind them. Instead, they have a sense of isolation from what they call 'the world' --- by which they mean their own homeland.

Although acknowledging that special government "programs are not enough, Dole said that programs such as Jobs for Veterans, and those under the Veterans Administration "are attempting to provide for homecoming Vietnam veterans in a broad variety of ways." Dole said special care is being provided for veterans who are addicted to drugs, and added that the Jobs for Veterans program is now active in 47 states and 285 cities. He also mentioned a new program funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity to help disadvantaged veterans into jobs and job training, using other veterans to help with the effort. Dole emphasized that President Nixon has pledged "the full weight of his office to the welfare of these men."

FULL TEXT ATTACHED