

From: The Office of Sen. Bob Dole
New Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-8947

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KANSAS CITY, Mo., Jan. 4 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole said here today he believes the National Health Insurance plan is a "quack remedy" for the ills of health care in the United States.

Speaking at the Quarterly Medical Staff Meeting of the Baptist Memorial Hospital, Dole called the National Health Insurance plan "an irresponsible appeal to the expectations and needs of millions of Americans." A member of the Senate Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, Dole acknowledged the need for reform in health care but warned "that in this political year there will be considerable efforts by some to pile on the rhetoric and inflate the pretty balloon of radical health care revision."

He said the National Health Insurance plan, "a multi-billion dollar blueprint for federal medicine," is "another of a long list of proposals that have sparkled with the glitter of instant solutions to complex problems but underneath have proven to be hollow shells."

He continued:

Nationalization would not go to the roots of the problems that confront us. It would transform American doctors into harrassed, incompetent bureacrats, and leave the basic sources of today's crisis untouched.

"A health crisis exists in America," Dole said, but added that it will not be solved by "wholesale disruption of our present health structure." He said the structure is sound and capable of solving the problems that have developed.

Proposing a "reasonable course," Dole suggested taking the present structure and system, charging the bad, replacing the outmoded and stimulating the good. The Kansas Senator pointed out the multiple aspects of today's health crisis. It involves:

huge costs to families when faced with medical events such as heart attacks, strokes and cancer,

too few doctors, nurses and technicians being trained in the most pressing fields and for the most shorthanded areas, and

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medical schools with inadequate physical facilities to expand enrollments to accommodate increasing numbers of qualified applicants.

Dole noted that some worthwhile proposals have been suggested to provide solutions "without precipitating wholesale confusion."

In November President Nixon signed into law the Health Manpower and Nurse Training bills that he cited as the most comprehensive health manpower legislation in the nation's history. He also requested additional appropriations to bring health manpower spending to a record \$530 million yearly level.

Calling it another positive step, Dole outlined the Nixon Administration's health program that is presently before Congress.

This integrated program would:

include a broad national health insurance partnership to provide financial medical security for all Americans,

involve improvements in the Medicare premium payment system for retired individuals,

contain an eight-point program to improve nursing homes, and

include the \$100 million Cancer Cure Program under the Conquest of Cancer Act, to mount a coordinated and intensive effort to find a cure for the many malignant diseases that ravage mankind.

The Kansas Senator said the Nixon program "constitutes a broad and well-thought-out attack on the fundamental problems."