

38



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

Joe Reppert—Press Secretary

FOR RELEASE - A.M.'s, FEBRUARY 20, 1973

WASHINGTON, D.C., FEB. 19, 1973 -- Senator Bob Dole, speaking in Pekin, Illinois, compared Presidents Lincoln and Nixon. Dole said:

In the closing days of the Civil War, when America's destiny as one Nation seemed secure, Lincoln directed his thoughts to the future. Only weeks before his death, he challenged the American people to "bind up the Nation's wounds" and to turn their energies and re-unified strength to "do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all Nations.

Richard Nixon's leadership has followed much the same path as Lincoln's. He has---with great courage and unbending determination---ended a divisive and costly war. He has laid the foundation for another generation of peace in the last third of this century. He has given us leadership. And now, left once more to peaceful pursuits, American energies can be directed to transforming the world--as they once transformed this continent.

I believe you have felt--along with me--the thrill and inspiration of this heartwarming past week. American prisoners returning to us, to their families and their country, has truly been a sight for sore eyes. And the works of the first man to leave the plane at Clark Air Force Base will be among the most remembered of the war. He said:

"We are honored to have the opportunity to serve our country under difficult circumstances. We are profoundly grateful to our Commander-in-Chief and to our Nation for this day. God Bless America."

And I would hope that, in the universal relief and joy felt by every American at their return, we may begin to draw our Nation together and begin a healing for the many divisions of the war.

So, as when the Civil War ended in Lincoln's time, we may now "bind up the Nation's wounds," and bring about that peace among ourselves and with all Nations.