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# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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

Joe Reppert—Press Secretary

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WASHINGTON, D.C., MAR. 19, 1973 -- The fourth annual Kansas Special Olympics will be held at Washburn University on June 8 and 9. These games create opportunities for sports training and athletic competition for retarded children and young adults. In 1972, over 1200 "special" children competed in these Special Olympics.

Senator Bob Dole, in recognition of the outstanding opportunities these games provide for the mentally retarded, has donated a plaque to this year's games. It will be awarded annually to the winner of the mile run.

The Special Olympics are of great importance because regardless of the disability, there is a place in these games for every mentally retarded child. And, as the child improves his confidence on the playing field, he also improves in school, and eventually on the job. "The Special Olympians", many of whom have been relegated to the sidelines, have an opportunity to become active participants in the community," Dole said. "They have been regarded as different and have heard, 'you can't do it'." The Special Olympics gives them a chance to show that they can.

The Special Olympics also provides an excellent opportunity for the entire community to become involved and to show their concern. The mentally retarded have much to contribute to society if allowed -- loyalty, devotion, determination, and joy. "The spirit with which these children enter into the Special Olympics is truly inspiring. This should serve to remind all of us that despite the tremendous success of these games there are still over 2 million mentally retarded children in the United States denied the opportunity to develop

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