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TOPEKA, KANSAS, MAR. 31, 1973 -- Senator Bob Dole, speaking this evening to the G.I. Forum (a Mexican-American organization) in Topeka, praised President Nixon for his commitment in bringing about an honorable end to the Vietnam War and the successful release of all American P.O.W.'s.

Dole told the story of Navy Lt. Commander Everett Alvarez, the longest held P.O.W.. "He gave it all he had," Dole said, "for nine long years -- and suffered and fought to keep alive so that he could one day return to this country. When he learned he was coming home after nine long years of captivity, he said simply, 'It's been a long time coming, but we are going home -- home to the greatest country in the whole wide world.' No one has ever said it better."

The Kansas Senator said that the members of the G.I. Forum should take great pride in their accomplishments. But, Dole said, "Government has to help. It has an important role to play but it ought only to supply the resources, where they are lacking, or the skills, where they have not yet been developed, or the education and training, where it is absent."

Dole said for this reason he had co-sponsored the Bi-Lingual Job Training Bill introduced in the Senate last January. The bill is designed to help the Spanish-speaking person to find job training programs that can meet his special needs.