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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Recently the Department of Justice announced the first decrease in serious crime in the United States in 17 years.

This is welcome news to all of us. Hopefully, this marks the turning point in our continuing fight against crime. Since I was first elected to Congress, countless dollars have been allocated to fight crime. It is heartening to see these expenditures finally begin to pay off.

The Kansas cities' statistics show that the crime rate in Topeka has been reduced by 15.2 per cent, and it's down .4 per cent in Wichita. In the Kansas City, Missouri area the crime rate has decreased by 13.2 per cent.

In addition to our efforts to control crime with federal programs, a great deal of the credit for the decreasing crime rate must go to the dedicated law enforcement officials throughout Kansas and the nation.

One interesting but disheartening aspect of the statistics on crime is that while there were big decreases in metropolitan areas, crime increased in the rural areas. In cities of over a million population, crime was down 12 per cent. In cities of over 500,000 it was down by 7 per cent, and in cities over 25,000, crime was down 5 per cent. But, in the rural areas, crime was up 4 per cent.

More money and support must be focused on these rural areas to help reverse the increasing incidents of crime there. ~~has~~ has already been done in our metropolitan centers.