

948



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 31, 1974

DOLE SAYS PEACE IS THE OVERWHELMING FACTOR IN WHAT IS RIGHT WITH AMERICA

INDEPENDENCE, KANSAS -- Senator Bob Dole today told the graduating class of Independence High School that "more is right with America today than ever before in the history of our great country."

In remarks prepared for delivery at the I.H.S. commencement ceremonies the Kansas Senator said:

"First and foremost in the America of 1974, there is peace. The United States is not engaged in hostilities anywhere in the world. And through our efforts, the hope of lasting peace among all nations is brighter than at any time in the memory of this graduating class and most of your parents.

There is no Berlin blockade. There is no Korean conflict. We are out of Vietnam. And today in Geneva a major step toward a durable settlement in the Middle East was formulized after a solid month of the most intensive diplomatic efforts ever undertaken by an American Secretary of State.

I would say this means there is something very big and very "right" about America in 1974. And this carries over very directly to the graduating class of Independence High School. For you young men who receive diplomas tonight no longer have the military draft hanging over your heads. And neither do your mothers, fathers and friends face the prospect of your being sent to fight and perhaps to die, be wounded or taken prisoner in some far-off war.

I am sure that several in this audience had sons or older brothers who graduated from I.H.S. in, say, between 1964 and 1970. Perhaps some of you were in those very classes. And you know the pressures and concerns that the draft and an ongoing war created in the young lives of that time.

And I just wonder how you would rate the "rightness" factor in America in 1974--compared to back in those days when young men leaving high school faced not only the economic and emotional uncertainty of starting out in the adult world but confronted grave uncertainty as to being able to plan for their future and to survive it.

But while extremely important, peace is not the only thing which is right with our country today. We are better nourished, healthier and better educated than at any previous time in our history. And the average life expectancy--now in excess of 71 years--has been increased by approximately one month per year over the past two decades.

The young women who graduate tonight have greatly expanded opportunities for educational, economic and social advancement. Their rights as fully participating members of our business, legal and political systems are more effectively protected and strenghtened than at any earlier time--and the process is continuing to gain momentum and force in every aspect of our national life.