

BOB DOLE



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DOLE OPPOSED TO PREMOBILIZATION REGISTRATION, SAYS IT'S UNNECESSARY

WASHINGTON-- Calling President Carter's plan to register young people for the draft "unnecessary" and "the wrong solution to a real problem," Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today announced he will vote against H.J. Resolution 521, a transfer resolution for fiscal year 1980 providing for revitalization of the selective service system.

Dole, in a Wednesday morning press conference, stressed that "there is very little doubt in my mind that we face serious problems because of our less than adequate manpower levels in the armed services. What I do doubt is whether registration is the proper way to address this problem."

"Over the past several years I, along with many of my colleagues, have fought proposed cutbacks in military manpower, such as Naval Reserve cuts. Many of us have fought to retain military benefits, or to stop cuts in benefits. In general, we have opposed the kinds of cutbacks that are primarily responsible for the problems we are now experiencing in recruitment and retention of young people in our armed forces," said Dole.

Unnecessary'

"In a report dated January 26, 1980, the Selective Service carefully delineated the case for postmobilization registration. It should be noted that this report was issued a month following the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. This document describes premobilization registration, as favored by the President, as 'redundant and unnecessary,' and concludes that postmobilization registration is the most cost-effective and desirable option available to improve the emergency capability of selective service," said Dole.

Dole added that the study indicates that the postmobilization option is capable of delivering the first inductees within 17 days, and 100,000 inductees within 33 days.

"In both cases the lag between premobilization and postmobilization is just 7 or 8 days," said Dole.

As an alternative, Senator Dole argues that the Selective Service needs to take steps to improve its infrastructure and computer capability.

"I doubt that anyone here is any more in favor of a strong defense than Bob Dole. But the President's registration program is not the answer," he added.