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News from Senator with any questions or comments: http://dolearchive.ku.e

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DOLE STATES HIS OPPOSITION TO PEACETIME DRAFT REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

LAWRENCE, KS -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today stated his strong opposition to President Carter's peacetime draft registration.

Dole, appearing in Lawrence, Kansas, told a press conference audience that "I opposed President Carter's registration plan to reinstate peacetime registration because I strongly believe we have no business imposing this kind of burden on our nation and our youth at a time when there are other effective ways to improve the capability of the Selective Service System so that it can respond quickly in a time of emergency," said Senator Dole.

Plan Fails to Address Real Needs

"There are those who say that we need to begin the draft process because our All Volunteer Army has failed. I fail to see how the President's registration plan meets any of the criticism of the volunteer army; it does not increase the number of personnel in our armed forces. The only thing it does do, in my opinion, is create a false sense of security with respect to our national preparedness," said Dole.

What Kind of War?

"A key question," Dole said, "Is what kind of war this registration program is supposed to be designed for. If the U.S. were suddenly involved in a conflict with a third world country, our military strength would be more than sufficient. The other likely type of war would be a conventional one with the Soviet Union, probably in Western Europe. First of all, it would be meaningless. And even if this conflict was limited to conventional warfare, registration would be useless. The Pentagon says that a conventional war would be decided in three months, while it takes six months to train a recruit," said Dole.

"The bottom line is that registration is an empty symbol. The Administration is using our nation's young peo to project an image of false strength," said Dole.