

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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### DOLE ASKS THAT TITAN II WARNING SYSTEM BE RETAINED BY CONFERENCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today appealed to members of a Senate-House Conference Committee to retain funding for an early warning system for Titan II missile sites.

Senator Dole and Arkansas Senator David Pryor called for the installation of such an early warning alarm system in an amendment they attached to the Military Construction Authorization Bill last Tuesday. The Dole-Pryor amendment was accepted by the full Senate, but must be approved by a House-Senate Conference Committee, which will meet to iron out differences between Senate and House versions of the bill. The House version has no provision for the alarm systems.

Today, in a letter to Conference Committee member Senator Gary Hart (D.-Colo.), Senator Dole stressed that Friday's accident in Damascus, Arkansas, which killed one serviceman and injured 21, is urgently needed.

"I am only sorry it took (this accident) to demonstrate the very real need for such a warning system," Dole told Senator Hart. "I strongly urge you and other members of the Conference Committee to retain this very important amendment as you consider H.R. 7301," Dole concluded in his letter.

The Senator has stressed that he does not see the alarm system as anything more than a stop-gap measure.

"I still firmly believe that we need a complete re-evaluation of the Titan II system," Dole said. "We need to see if it is safe and strategically important. If not, the system should be removed," Dole concluded.

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

September 22, 1980

The Honorable Gary Hart  
Suite 254  
Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Gary:

As you know, areas surrounding Titan II missile sites around the United States will receive early warning of a missile accident as result of an amendment adopted by the Senate as part of the Military Contruction Authorization Bill. I am please to have joined my distinguished colleague from Arkansas, Senator Pryor, in offering this important amendment.

This amendment would require installation of an alarm system at the various Titan II sites in the United States by the Secretary of the Air Force. The system would be installed at each site which has human pppulation in the surrounding area. It is my understanding there are some sites that would not require this system because they are located in deserted areas.

During the last incident at Potwin, Kansas, sixteen families which surround the missile site were ultimately evacuated as a "safety precaution." While I commended the Air Force and other local law enforcement officials for their good work in notifying the surrounding population of the potential danger, I do not believe it was good enough.

I share Senator Pryor's belief that we must establish an early warning system to protect the safety of these civilians who could be exposed to accidentally released toxic and even lethal gaseous fumes. The general alarm siren provided for in this amendment will serve this much-needed purpose. I am only sorry that it took another accident at the Damascus, Arkansas missile site to demonstrate the very real need for such a warning system.

I strongly urge you and other members of the Conference Committee to retain this very important amendment as you consider H.R. 7301.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE  
United States Senate

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