

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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U.S. DRUG FIGHTING EFFORTS FAILING TO STEM DRUG ABUSE, DOLE SAYS

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. - Senator Bob Dole (R Kan.) charged today that drug traffic in the United States has ballooned because of our preoccupation with solving other non-drug-related problems along our borders.

"The commandant of the Coast Guard testified before Congress very recently that interdiction activities to cut off the flow of cocaine and marijuana from the Caribbean have fallen off 90 percent from April to August of 1980 over the same period a year ago, because of the diversion of Coast Guard enforcement resources to deal with the Cuban refugee problem," Dole said.

"Just last week, the district attorney of Manhattan, Robert Morgenthau, said that the problem of heroin addiction on the Eastern Seaboard was 'in the early stages of a massive crisis.' New York City alone will have about 600 heroin related deaths, as opposed to 472 in 1979 and 246 in 1978.

"Simply stated, marijuana and cocaine are readily available to our young people throughout the country. Heroin and various synthetic drugs are becoming quite available also.

"With very little interruption, the problem has intensified dramatically over the past two decades. Enforcement activities at the federal, state and local level have generally been unable to keep abreast of the burgeoning problems - all indicators of serious drug abuse, such as heroin overdose deaths, increases of serum hepatitis and so forth. Some progress has been made in cutting off the supply of Mexican heroin, but this shortfall appears to be more than made up by increased availability from southeast Asia and Iran.

"As the supply and the quality goes up and the price goes down, the problem of drug abuse becomes more severe. One recent study suggest that 100 untreated heroin addicts can be responsible for as many as 50,000 street crimes over the course of a year trying to support their habits.

"Again, while the problems seem to be dramatically increasing, federal budget cutters are not only causing re alignments and cutbacks in federal law enforcement capabilities, but also cutting off assistance to the state and local agencies dealing with these problems. This is at a time when overall federal assistance to state and local governments in the 1,200 odd federal aid programs has increased about 10 percent."

Dole spoke before a "Meet Your Candidate" luncheon sponsored by the Johnson County Bar Association.