

BOB DOLE



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U.S. FACES 'HOMELESS GENERATION' IF PRESENT POLICIES CONTINUE

TOPEKA, KS-- Senator Bob Dole today told a Kansas Realtors Association audience that America "may be facing a homeless generation" if the current slump in home ownership isn't reversed soon.

Dole, who spoke to the Realtors in Topeka, said that-home ownership "is a vital component of the American Dream. Unfortunately, for most young Americans, that dream has turned into a nightmare."

The Kansas Senator said figures released by the National Association of Homebuilders show that only 19 percent of America's families can afford an average home mortgage, as compared to 29 percent a few months ago.

"Home ownership is a powerful, positive force in our country," Dole said. "It gives a person a sense of pride, a sense of community, a sense of belonging. It provides the glue which helps hold our society together," Dole added.

Disaster

Dole called the Administration's attempt to control inflation by depressing the housing industry "a total disaster."

"This short-sighted policy has not had any appreciable effect on inflation. But it has nearly destroyed the housing and real estate industries. Even President Carter, this past week, seemed to be finally admitting his mistakes when he expressed his displeasure with interest rates," Dole said.

Senator Dole told the Realtors that he has introduced legislation that would allow young Americans to save up to \$10,000 towards the purchase of a first home, tax free.

"It is my belief that the young people of the 1980's should be given every opportunity to participate fully in our society. They have a right to expect the same things their parents expected-- including a roof over their head that they can call their own. Anything less constitutes failure on the part of those who guide housing policy."