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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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SECRETARY OF STATE SHANAHAN, SENATOR DOLE, OPPOSE POSTCARD REGISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Kansas Secretary of State Elwill M. Shanahan today told Senator Bob Dole and other members of the Senate Post Office and Civil Service Committee that federal voter registration by postcard would result in "confusion...administrative headaches" and increased "potential for election fraud." The Senate Committee Mrs. Shanahan appeared before is considering a bill that would establish a national system of postcard registration for voters in federal elections.

Dole, who also opposes the bill, said that the annual cost of such a program is estimated to be between \$25 million and \$120 million. "The registration process would be duplicated quite unnecessarily in most states by the far more impersonal post-card process. Adding to the confusion of a dual system would be the possible requirement for printing dual ballots necessary to cover the unfortunate voters whose registration status might permit them to vote only in federal elections and not in state elections."

Both Mrs. Shanahan and Senator Dole pointed out that Kansas already has a vigorous registration program that has proven itself by the high percentage of eligible Kansans who are registered. Mrs. Shanahan said registration in Kansas is permanent, and valid until the voter changes residence or name. "Ours is indeed a simple and efficient system that affords ample opportunity for registration," the Secretary of State said. "I feel very strongly that this bill would accomplish exactly the opposite of that which is intended. Instead of simplifying registration it would add yet another agency...Confusion would be the net result at a burdensome cost to the taxpayer," she concluded.

The bill being considered today would establish a Voter Registration Administration, every two years, that Administration would mail out postcards for voter registration in federal elections.