

98



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, MAY 16, 1975

CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON

DOLE RECEIVES COMMITMENT FOR ACTION ON VETERANS' JOBS PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C.--During Senate debate today, Senator Bob Dole received commitments that prompt hearings would be held on his proposal to provide job assistance to Vietnam-era veterans. "While we're discussing the urgent need for humanitarian assistance to refugees who are victims of the Vietnam war, we cannot allow ourselves to forget the equally urgent employment needs of our own Vietnam veterans -- in a sense, they are also victims of that war," Dole said introducing an amendment to the Indochina Refugee Assistance Act.

The measure, sponsored by Dole and Senator John Tunney (D-Calif), would authorize \$100 million to provide transitional employment for unemployed and underemployed Vietnam-era veterans in jobs providing public services, as well as related training and manpower services. 25% of the funds would be reserved for hiring disabled Vietnam-era veterans.

Senators Harrison Williams (D-N.J.), Chairman of the Labor and Public Welfare Committee, and Jacob Javits (R-N.Y.), ranking Minority member, assured Dole that hearings on his proposal would begin Monday, May 19. Dole then withdrew the measure to insure rapid action on the refugee assistance bill.

The jobs program would meet two needs, according to Dole. "First and foremost, the amendment would provide jobs for veterans who, because of the current economic slump, have found it difficult to return to the private jobs market." Dole said these veterans "whose lives are still affected by their involvement in the Vietnamese conflict, have been forgotten because of the emotional nature of the problems in Southeast Asia." He pointed out that in Kansas, among veterans between the ages of 20 and 24, "the unemployment was an unbelievable 22.8 percent during the month of April."

Dole said the measure would also assist many state and local governments who have been forced to reduce essential public services because the economic slump has resulted in less revenue.