

BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS)

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For Release to Syracuse papers

Monday, January 27, 1964

Congressman Bob Dole, speaking before the Annual Meeting of the Republican Citizens Committee of Onondaga County at Syracuse, New York, on January 27, stated he knew of no better way President Johnson could reaffirm his public pronouncement about economy than to endorse a measure introduced by Congressman Walter Riehlman last Tuesday which would provide essentially for the re-establishment of the Hoover Commission on a permanent basis, with even more emphasis on the elimination of unnecessary departments, agencies and instrumentalities within the Executive Branch of our government.

Dole stated: "Economy is everybody's business-- should be bi-partisan, or better yet, non-partisan. In my brief tenure in Congress, I have seen a lot of economy 'preached' but very little 'practiced'."

"A case in point," he said, "concerned the foreign aid bill passed late last session after President Johnson order an airlift of absentee Administration supporters to Washington to help bail out Russia and other Communist countries.

"There were moans and groans in Congress, in many foreign countries, and some in this country when the foreign aid appropriations bill was slashed to \$3-billion. No doubt about it, the Foreign Aid program faced the severest Congressional opposition since its

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beginning, which confirmed "grass roots" thinking that our country cannot continue nearly unlimited aid to over 100 countries year after year, and also that Americans are weary of talk about streamlining foreign aid programs, cutting out waste, and winning friends.

Many members of Congress were therefore not surprised after all the bureaucratic moaning and groaning that David E. Bell, Foreign Aid Chief, and White House economic advisor, Walter W. Heller, "found" \$669,876,000 unspent and unobligated funds "they didn't know they had" after Congress appropriated them \$3-billion. Now \$670-million, nearly 3/4 of a billion dollars, is not much in a program which has already cost over \$100-billion, but a good percentage of this has been spent on proven waste, inefficiency, duplication, and in many cases, downright stupidity of parts of the programs, which are too complex to understand and too large to support.

The evasions and half-truths coupled with emotional, if not factual, editorials tend to condition the mind of many that a penny cut from a foreign aid bill would mean a surrender to Communism. It seems strange year after year Congress succumbs to this shallow argument, and it would be better to determine who and where our friends are, and either demand the unvarnished truth from foreign aid officials or replace them on a wholesale basis.