

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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WASHINGTON—Rep. Bob Dole (R. Kans.) indicated Tuesday that passage of the so-called "Bail Reform Act" is not, in his opinion, in the best interest of the general public.

As an example, Dole cited one section of the Bill which would make it almost mandatory for the court to release from custody persons accused of capital offenses, murder and rape before trial. The same section indicates that persons convicted of non-capital offenses are presumptably to be released pending an appeal or sentencing by the court.

"In my opinion", Dole said, "this section takes away the right of the court to detain defendants even when their release would not serve the ends of justice or be in the public interest."

Dole stated that bail reform was needed to assure that all persons regardless of their financial status are not needlessly detained pending trial or appeal, but when a person is charged with a capital offense such as murder or rape, or where the person has been properly convicted, then the court should determine whether it is in the public interest to release the person charged or convicted.

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