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FOR RELEASE AFTER 12 Noon

WASHINGTON--Rep. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today introduced legislation, which if enacted, would automatically increase Social Security benefits whenever the cost of living rose 3% or more.

Dole said that inflation under the Johnson-Humphrey Administration is particularly harmful to older people who must live on fixed income and something must be done to protect the purchasing power of these persons.

"The retired, those on Social Security for example, find themselves falling behind constantly as prices go up. For that reason, I have introduced a bill which would automatically increase Social Security benefits whenever the cost of living rises by 3% or more."

This legislation would eliminate the long delays involved in providing this needed relief to people who need it most and differs from legislation introduced by other Republican members. Under Dole's proposal, increases in Social Security benefits would not affect veterans pension benefits. "Thousands of older veterans have lost their pensions because of small Social Security increases. My proposal, therefore, provides that increases in Social Security benefits would not be considered as income for veterans pension purposes," Dole concluded.