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9/20/66
called to Mae

Congressman Bob Dole stated today that the Veterans Pension Act of 1966, passed by the House yesterday is "better than nothing", but does not meet some of the problems faced by World War I Veterans, their widows and dependants.

Congressman Dole stated that the Administration was opposed to any legislation at this time because of the state of the economy. ^{but in} my opinion, this is no justification for ^{delaying} imposing revision of existing pension laws, because the average age of World War I Veterans is ^{over} ~~in excess of~~ 70 years and these are the people who suffer most from the inflationary pressures brought on by this Administration. "About all the bill does," Dole stated, "is to provide a cost of living increase for Veterans and widows and certain children of Veterans."

house passed

In ^a ~~his~~ statement on the House Floor, ^{Cong.} Dole ~~urged~~ urged action in five other areas: (1) Increase certain income limits and pension rates for veterans and widows; (2) Serious consideration be given to reducing the 90-day service requirement; (3) Eliminate all payments from any source as income when veterans reaches age 72; (4) provide veterans the option of electing to receive benefits under Public Law 86-211 or previously existing laws so that the veterans could receive the highest possible benefits. Many World War I veterans who did not reach the age of 65 on July 1, 1960 have been discriminated against; and (5) Revised present laws to protect those veterans who have become ineligible for veterans benefits because of slight increases in Social Security benefits.

There are other specific areas where changes should be made, but the important point is that something be done ^{now} ~~now~~ quickly because even now, the average age of ~~XXXXXX~~ veterans of World War I is above 70 years.