

FOR RELEASE AFTER 2 P.M., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1967

SALINA, Kans., Dec. 9, 1967 -- U. S. Rep Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said today senior citizens must be assured dignity, independence and security.

Dole gave the keynote speech at the regional Senior Citizens Conference here. Designed to review and explain federal and state programs for persons over age 60, the program included a panel discussion featuring five officials of government agencies.

"To preserve dignity," Dole said, "we must recognize retirement from employment is not retirement from life."

"To preserve independence, we must have programs of assistance and real alternatives so the individual can choose a course of action for himself."

To help maintain security, the Congressman said, "We must protect income of older people from the ravages of inflation, and then, too, we must guarantee physical and social security."

"If we take away self-reliance," he added, "we destroy personal dignity."

Dole said there are 19 million senior citizens in the United States -- six times as many as in 1900.

In 1966, he pointed out, over 11 per cent of the Kansas population was over age 65.

Dole said similar conferences will be scheduled soon for other western Kansas areas.