

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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HAYS, Kans., March 22 -- Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said inflation provides the greatest threat to persons over age 65.

Speaking at the regional Senior Citizens Conference here, Dole said, "Inflation is a debilitating disease which strikes the older American with more savagery than any other group."

"This is true," he added, "because the senior citizen depends more than anyone upon savings for his independence and security."

Pointing out "uninterrupted income" is the most effective way to help senior citizens maintain their dignity, independence and security, Dole said, "Retirement plans, social security and veterans benefits and other pensions must be insulated from the erosion of inflation."

Noting there are 16 per cent fewer persons over age 65 receiving welfare payments than in 1940, the Kansas Congressman said, "This is a testament to the increasing social awareness of both industry and government."

The conference, the second in a series planned by Dole for First District residents, is designed to review and explain state and federal programs affecting senior citizens.

At the Hays conference, six officials of the state and federal governments joined Dole in a panel discussion.