

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE  
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EUREKA, Kans., July 4 -- Congressman Bob Dole today called for a nationwide citizen commitment to help restore respect for law and order in America.

Speaking at the Independence Day celebration here, Dole said, "The government can attack the symptoms of violence all you want. We can suppress rioting. We can wage wars on poverty. We can try to protect our political leaders from assassination. We can fight crime."

"But this is not enough," he said. "These problems have grown out of ~~dis~~respect for law and order and for the men and ~~ins~~titutions whose job it is to see that peace, law and order prevail."

"Until we rekindle national faith in the American system, until we resurrect respect for law and order, we will not fully correct any of our country's problems."

"Promoting pride in America is a sales promotion I believe is long overdue," he said,

Dole said three initial steps citizens may take are to publicly support local and state law enforcement officials and the law, to insist upon just laws that are vigorously and fairly enforced and to become involved in politics.

On supporting law enforcement officials, Dole said, "Law enforcement is at a period of crisis. The inadequacy is not one of quality, but of quantity -- too few men, poor salaries, insufficient equipment, public scorn or indifference."

"But their job can be easier and our lives more secure if the need to obey laws and respect authority is stressed," he added.

On insisting that just laws are vigorously and fairly enforced, the Congressman said, "My fear is that in our proper zeal to protect the rights of the accused, we have overlooked the basis and purpose of all criminal law -- protecting the public from lawless acts."

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"No one has the right to take the law into his own hands, to determine which laws are good, which are bad, which he will obey and which he will ignore," he said.

"We must assure that all those who break laws are swiftly and surely brought to trial," he added.

"We face a long, uphill battle to regain our national respect for law and order -- in our own eyes and in the eyes of the world," Dole said. "But together the people and their government can win both the war and the peace."