

PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KANSAS

FOR RELEASE AFTER 9:00 P.M.  
FRIDAY, JULY 12, 1968

Congressman Bob Dole, candidate for the U. S. Senate, stated at a reception in his honor at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vrem Leven in Prairie Village tonight that one of the disquieting facts of American life today is the way the words "law and order" are being downgraded in some circles.

"Somewhere along the line," Dole stated, "many seem to have forgotten that our form of government rests on the concept of a nation governed by the rule of law, not by the whims of men. They neglect to realize that law and order are the very fabric of a society built on justice. They don't seem to have carried their thinking far enough to understand that if the time ever comes when not enough people are willing to obey the law or when government no longer can enforce laws, the result will be anarchy."

"Even anarchy," Dole said, "is just a word to those thoughtless and selfish few who want to make all the rules to suit themselves. They don't seem to care that a state of anarchy would leave this nation in a social jungle where the only law would be the one governing the survival of the fittest.

"The belittling of the whole concept of law and order is part of the permissiveness which has grown so prevalent in our society that the phrase 'anything goes' takes on more ominous meaning every day.

"A large share of the blame for this permissiveness belongs to government, for when public officials condone and individual leaders support the whole idea of civil disobedience (for whatever cause) they are asking for the kind of criminal disobedience which has given us the most frightening wave of violence and lawlessness the nation has ever seen."

Dole added that, in his opinion, "the President of the United States and other leaders in government could do far more than they have done to date to give force and meaning to a new national devotion to the rule of law. There has been plenty of lip service, countless statements, and numerous commissions to study the problem of crime and lawlessness. It is now time for just action and, in my opinion, no one needs to be told again and again how serious the situation has become."