

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE  
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WASHINGTON, D.C., July 22 -- Congressman Bob Dole returned to Washington today to be present for House discussions on the State Firearms Control Assistance Act of 1968.

Dole skipped a Kansas campaign caravan honoring his birthday today in order to return for this important legislation. Dole praised adoption of an amendment offered by Congressman Richard Poff (R-Va.).

"This amendment," Dole said, "is essential if we are to see a reduction of serious crime in the near future."

The Poff amendment to the legislation providing for a ban on the mail order sale of rifles and shotguns would insure a stiff prison sentence for anyone convicted of a federal felony while carrying or using a firearm," Dole said.

Anyone carrying or using a firearm in the commission of a felony would be subject to a mandatory one-year prison sentence, he added. Anyone convicted a subsequent time would be subject to a minimum mandatory sentence of five years in prison.

"This amendment has the effect of placing the burden squarely on the shoulders of the criminal," Dole said. "He will be severely punished for using or carrying a firearm. Under the Poff amendment, the criminal cannot depend on a merciful court to release him to society. This amendment assures him of at least one year behind bars for the first offense. I feel this tough law will help curb crime in the United States."