

FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE  
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WASHINGTON, D.C., July 24 -- Congressman Bob Dole late yesterday introduced an eight-point bill to achieve "the most urgently needed reforms of the draft".

In a statement issued from his Congressional office, Dole said, "It is imperative that the Congress affirm this year its commitment to make the draft as fair and as just as possible".

"Today", he said, "the draft does not work this way. It is not administered with complete impartiality or with total justice, and the Armed Forces' requirements for manpower are not weighed or determined within a coherent framework of the Nation's total manpower needs."

Dole's eight-point bill would:

- (1) Establish and enforce national standards for occupational deferments;
- (2) Provide explicitly for deferments for all full-time students in good standing at junior and community colleges, and equitable treatment for part-time students in essential fields of study;
- (3) Extend deferments -- but not exemptions -- to students already in graduate school, allowing them to finish their graduate work before entering military service;
- (4) Remove the current prohibition against a lottery in order to open other possible avenues of approach to the selection of inductees;
- (5) Give Congress the power, now held by the President, to suspend student deferments in time of war or national emergency;
- (6) Require that, except in time of war, physical and mental standards for induction through the draft be no lower than those for volunteer enlistment;
- (7) Require that draft quotas be set far enough in advance to permit local boards to give draftees 30 days' notice before induction; and
- (8) Reiterate Congress' statement of intent that military manpower needs should be met as much as possible by volunteers.

"I would hope that we could do more", he said. "I would hope that we can soon find creative, lasting solutions to enable us to scale down our military commitments in Vietnam.

"But as long as such solutions appear to elude us, we must at least insure that our draft practices are both scrupulously fair and consonant with and subordinate to the total manpower needs of the Nation."