

FROM: DOLE FOR SENATE HEADQUARTERS  
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TOPEKA, KANSAS, July 28 -- Congressman Bob Dole, Republican candidate for the United States Senate, today released the text of his letter to the 20 Kansas delegates to the Republican National Convention in Miami. Copies of the letter have also been sent to the 20 alternates to the Convention and to Senator Frank Carlson, Kansas' Favorite Son.

In the letter, Dole outlines what he believes are some of the more important problems and issues of the day, including: establishment of a system of national priorities for federal programs; greater emphasis on education and job opportunities; finding new approaches to farm problems; solutions to slums in our cities and depression in rural America; modernization of postal services; the need for justice and for vigorous and objective enforcement of the laws; a revenue-sharing program; draft reforms; and a solution to the Vietnam conflict.

The complete text of Dole's letter follows:

I want to wish you every success as you prepare to leave for the Republican National Convention. To serve as a Delegate or an Alternate is a well deserved honor, and all Republicans, and for that matter all Kansans, are looking to you for leadership.

As a Member of Congress for nearly eight years, I would like to outline what I believe to be some of the important issues of the day deserving the critical attention of our Party.

1. A system of national priorities must be established. The American taxpayer cannot bear the burden of increased taxes and inflation at the same time. In my opinion, Republicans should specifically define the areas of Federal responsibility and then pursue these responsibilities vigorously with new and imaginative approaches. The point is every new program and every existing program cannot be funded on an accelerated basis year after year. Programs and their effectiveness should be continually reviewed and, where necessary, modified, expanded or curtailed.

2. In my opinion, the greatest emphasis domestically should be placed upon education and job opportunities. In the field of education, I recommend the Republican Party go on record as favoring "block grants" to States. Without going into detail, this generally would permit States to determine where needs are greatest in education rather than having them determined by some Federal bureaucracy. With reference to jobs and job opportunities, I strongly recommend the Human Investment Act, introduced by myself and 129 other Republicans. Briefly, this bill provides tax credits to employers who undertake training programs. Again, this removes the Federal Government from job training and places it in the hands of companies, corporations and individuals on State and local levels.

3. No segment of America has suffered more the past 8 years than Rural America. The Johnson-Humphrey-Freeman farm policies have been disastrous. I need not tell you that farmers in Kansas are this year



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receiving ridiculously low prices for wheat, corn and other agricultural commodities.

Kansas is still basically an agricultural state, and agriculture is still the key to our economy. Nearly every community in Kansas benefits from a strong and healthy agricultural economy. New approaches must be found if the American farmer is to survive, and if not found, not only will the farmer disappear as an economic factor, but the American consumer will likewise suffer.

Two of the great achievements in agriculture occurred under the Eisenhower Administration at a time when Clifford Hope, Sr., was Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. I refer to the Food for Peace Program, responsible for literally saving the lives of hundreds and thousands of persons around the world and providing a surplus disposal outlet; and, secondly, the Watershed and Great Plains Programs have been highly popular and effective.

4. Today, 70% of the population lives on 1% of the land. This overcrowding has resulted in extensive slums in our cities, and depression in Rural America. Both problems are inter-related; the solutions must be mutually compatible.

Tax credits must be offered industry to encourage extensive training of the under-employed and the unemployed. Further tax credits must be offered to encourage de-centralization of meaningful employment. Rural areas can prosper only when they are given the opportunity to participate in 20th Century industrial development. Prosperity, if available to all sectors of our country, will be increased for all sectors of the country.

5. Perhaps the most frustrating problem that affects America more than any other is deteriorating mail service. The Administration has responded to a flood-tide of mail descending upon the Post Office by cutting services, eliminating some fourth class post offices (including five in Kansas), and threatening curtailment of Saturday deliveries. This response is intolerable.

Every effort must be made to deal with the postal difficulties. Studies should be made of all proposals for modernization of service. I also feel the Postmaster General should be something other than a political appointee who concerns himself more with pushing the President's programs through Congress than he does with improving mail service.

Technocological advances seem to have by-passed the handling and delivery of our mail. Any civilization capable of the strides we have witnessed should be capable of scientifically dealing with the mountain of mail inundating our postal employees. Our party has an obligation to come up with a positive proposal in this area.

6. Crime and violence is certainly one of the most important domestic issues. Respect for the policeman and the law he represents must be first demanded, then maintained in America. While we must uphold the rights of the accused, we must also concern ourselves with the plight of the innocent victim. I frankly feel that the pendulum has swung too far and that, in some instances, we have more effectively handcuffed the law enforcers than we have the law breakers. Certainly this Administration, at top levels, has failed to vigorously enforce the law, and if the Republican Party is to respond to the will of the great majority of Americans, our candidate in 1968 must, in my opinion, speak out strongly on the need for justice and just as strongly on the need for vigorous and objective law enforcement.

7. Many responsible Republicans, such as Congressman Melvin Laird of the House Leadership, have long advocated federal tax-revenue sharing with the States. Thus, programs administered by the long-arm of Washington could be administered by State and local officials using the same money.

The federal government has the machinery to tax fairly and broadly. But there is too much inefficiency, generally, in the administration of well

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meaning federal programs. Every delegate should seriously consider a revenue-sharing program to provide more money to be spent at the local level, with a sizable reduction in red tape.

8. For years, spokesmen for both major parties have talked about draft inequities and the need for draft reform. I believe the Republican Party has a real opportunity to take the lead in implementing meaningful draft reforms in 1969, and hopefully Republicans will control the House of Representatives and the White House. Just last week, I introduced a bill providing for numerous reforms, including national standards for occupational and student deferments, requirements that draft boards give draftees at least 30 days' notice, and removal of the prohibition against a lottery in order to open other possible avenues of approach to the selection of inductees.

Certainly the young people of America today are entitled to know that regardless of race, color, creed or financial standing they will be treated fairly and impartially when asked to serve their country.

The foregoing are some of the domestic issues; however, we all recognize that Vietnam is the overpowering issue of the day. The vast majority of Americans are confused, frustrated and prayerfully hoping for a negotiated settlement of the war with an honorable peace. I have no way of knowing what has been discussed in the Paris peace talks, but a settlement under this Administration seems remote. It appears to me, based on the scattering of information available, that the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong may soon give some evidence of their willingness to cooperate, but I frankly believe this will not come until after the November election. The best hope for peace in Vietnam lies with a newly elected Republican Administration, which does not have a "locked in" position. If further de-escalation can achieve a quick and honorable settlement, without endangering the lives of the Americans in Vietnam, and if this de-escalation means a halt in the bombing in Vietnam, then it should be done and done quickly. It seems senseless to me to continue the slaughter, and I feel it is imperative that the Republican Party adopt a position with reference to Vietnam that provides the greatest amount of flexibility.

I also suggest that our policy toward Vietnam provide that, as fast as the South Vietnamese are trained, Americans should be returned home. For too long the war there has been totally and completely an American war, and the time is long since past due when the South Vietnamese must pick up the mantle. In my opinion, the war in Vietnam has become a "great American tragedy", and the sooner a ceasefire begins, the better.

There are other areas of the Vietnam war, I am certain, which will be discussed at length by the appropriate committees in Miami, but again there is no more important problem in the world today than the honorable settlement of this conflict.

I happen to believe that the majority of Americans are looking for positive leadership, and also happen to believe that the Republican Party can provide the kind of leadership needed to restore America as the leader of the Free World in the '70's, and to solve many of the gnawing domestic problems.

I want to win, as you want to win, in 1968, not just for the sake of the Republican Party, but for the sake of all Americans. Today America is drifting at home and abroad, and new, imaginative and resourceful leadership must be provided, and our Party has perhaps the greatest opportunity to fill the void.

Let me re-emphasize that I have not attempted to cover every area of concern, but only some of the problems and some of the issues.

If I may be of any assistance either before you leave for Miami or after you arrive there, do let me know.

/s/ Bob Dole