

FOR RELEASE AFTER 8:30 P.M. FRIDAY, SEPT. 6, 1968

HUTCHINSON, Kans., Sept. 6 -- Republican candidate for the U.S. Senate Bob Dole today said "ignorance and apathy are this country's greatest enemies, not socialism or communism."

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Kansas Builders Forum here, Congressman Dole said, "I say this because it is the less obvious disease of apathy that socialism and communism and other political ills feed upon."

"What can destroy self-government and freedom is the unwillingness or indifference of many citizens to responsibly participate in what some call the dirty business of politics," he said.

"Politics only becomes dirty," he added, "when people become too busy or too apathetic to be bothered, leaving it to the boys in the backroom."

"I am convinced that some Americans are more forgetful of than forgotten in politics and government," Dole said.

He described the "forgotten American" as the "solid, middle-class taxpayer who, for 30 years, quietly sat on the sidelines while the big parade -- billed successively as the New Deal, Fair Deal, the New Frontier and the Great Society -- passed by him."

"The irony," he added, "is that he who considers himself a forgotten American, often forgetful of his public and political responsibilities, is the same fellow who pays most of the bills for the big parade."

Urging more individual involvement in local, state and national politics and government, Dole said, "I have a deep faith in the honor and integrity of the American people to govern themselves and to maintain their freedom when they know and understand the issues and are actively involved in public affairs."

"No one can afford to remain silent in our system of government whose very survival depends on interest and responsible action by the individual."