

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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109 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE THURSDAY, OCTOBER 3, 1968

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 3 -- Congressman Bob Dole today urged his House colleagues to support an amendment maintaining Veterans Administration hospital personnel at the present level.

The amendment passed the House later.

In a speech on the House floor, Dole said, "If the amendment is not passed, the VA will be forced to reduce its employment level far below the level required to provide satisfactory care and treatment for veterans."

"This means entire wards and possibly entire hospitals now in existence would have to be closed," he added.

"It is patently ridiculous to cut back the VA hospital system at a time when existing hospital facilities are already overburdened by casualties from Viet Nam and by the increasing needs of the aging veteran population."