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WICHITA, Kans., April 25 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said President Nixon's decision to proceed with a modified ABM system is "the most controversial issue of the Administration's first 96 days."

Speaking here at the Kansas Grain and Feed Dealers convention, Dole added, "The President's decision directly affects the security and survival of the United States, the lives of over 200 million persons and the survival of freedom."

Other "hard, cold facts" the President confronted, Dole said, include:

- *"The Soviet Union has already deployed an anti-ballistic missile system around Moscow. Even if the U.S. began now, we would not have comparable capability for over four years."
- *"The Soviet Union is continuing development and deployment of a large intercontinental ballistic missile capable of delivering a 25 megaton warhead."
- *"The Soviet Union has substantially increased the size of its submarine-launched ballistic missile forces."
- *"The Chinese Communists are developing the capability to launch a limited nuclear attack in the 1970's."

"These are some of the inescapable ingredients of the tough decision President Nixon faced," Dole said. "His decision was not based on politics, but on what is the best course of action for our country."

Dole, who supports the President's ABM position, said although none of the ABM proponents wants to spend additional billions of dollars, "the security and survival of our country merit top priority."