

FOR RELEASE 6:00 PM, JUNE 6, 1969

WICHITA, KANS., JUNE 6 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.), in remarks this evening to women attending the annual convention of the Kansas Business and Profession Women, refuted the five major arguments posed by opponents of the ABM System.

In response to the argument that there is no established need for the Safeguard System, Dole said, "...no nation is likely to attack us today, but if we fail to initiate appropriate defense programs now, by the year 1975 this currently advantageous U.S. strategic posture may be irretrievably lost due to our inaction now."

The second argument Dole negated was that costs have not been pinned down. He said, "Unlike many newly proposed weapon systems, Safeguard cost estimates have been refined by actual research and development experience over the last 13 years with the old Sentinel, Nike-X and Nike-Zeus Systems which are the basic progenitors of Safeguard."

In reply to the criticism that the ABM System has not been tested and cannot be tested except in wartime conditions, the Senator said, "Specifically we know that the missiles and the radar components in the system will work. Tests will soon be underway, under prevailing

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non-wartime conditions at Kwajalein in the Pacific, to check out the performance of the System against a missile attack." He continued, "We already have complex operating systems in such sophisticated technology areas as the space program and the Navy polaris system program."

Dole said another argument opponents use is that Nixon's modified system is nothing more than a "foot in the door for future expansion". Dole contended, "President Nixon has specifically rejected a "thick" defense of cities and has moved Safeguard site areas away from metropolitan cities to show clearly that he does not intend to expand Safeguard into a "heavy" defense system."

The final argument Dole contested was that deployment of the Safeguard System would hinder peace talks and arms control. Dole said, "The phased approach of the Safeguard System, co-joined with the commencement of meaningful arms limitation talks with the USSR, provides the best possible insurance for our future security and underscores the need for both the U.S. and USSR to reach reasonable limitations of both offensive and defensive armaments."

Dole concluded by comparing the ABM System to an insurance policy. He said, "We hope we never have to use it, but we cannot afford to be without it."

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