

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
New Senate Office Building
Washington, D. C. 20510
(202) 225-6521

116

FOR RELEASE AFTER 6 P.M., SATURDAY, JUNE 7, 1969

KANSAS CITY, Mo., June 7 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) tonight urged greater coordination and cooperation among the voluntary health-care organizations and government agencies, "if America is going to help the handicapped become as self-reliant as their abilities will allow."

Speaking here at the annual meeting of the United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Kansas City, Dole added, "It is not the sacredness of a specific program or agency that is at stake. It is the contribution of the public and private programs and people to solving the complex problems of the individual who has handicaps."

"We must insure that our efforts and money are not misplaced or misdirected or that they operate in a vacuum, that they do not just promise or duplicate or perhaps even negate, but that they really do the job that is needed," he said.

In his speech, Dole noted the Department of Health, Education and Welfare estimates at least five million disabled persons may be eligible for rehabilitation assistance, but do not know where to seek such help. Less than one-third of the nation's children requiring special education are ~~not~~ receiving it, and only 1/3 of America's blind and less than half of the paraplegics of working age are employed, he added.

"We have the skills and the will to bring the handicapped into the mainstream of life as more active, useful members of the community. We do this for many, and yet somehow, millions of others are passed by," he added.

"Our success in getting information and help to the handicapped will be determined in no small part to the extent the private and public sectors cooperate and coordinate," he said.