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FOR RELEASE IMMEDIATELY MONDAY, JUNE 23, 1969

WASHINGTON, D.C., June 23 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said the omnibus judges bill that passed the Senate today "will help speed justice and will go a long way toward reducing the workload on federal judges in Kansas."

The bill, which now goes to the House for action, would convert a temporary federal judgeship in Kansas to a fourth permanent judgeship. Currently Kansas has three permanent federal judges and a temporary one.

"With the U.S. Penitentiary in Leavenworth and the U.S. Army and Air Force disciplinary barracks also in Leavenworth," Dole said, "there is an extraordinary judicial burden on our federal judges."

"The result," he added, "has been a backlog of civil cases, which have accumulated because of the priority placed on prisoner petitions."

"I hope the House will see fit to pass the omnibus bill soon so that the caseload can be shared more efficiently and effectively."