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JOHNSON COUNTY, Kans., July 4 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said President Nixon "is turning the tide of government to bring opportunity and decision-making closer to the people."

Speaking here at several July 4 celebrations, Dole added, "He is expressing for all Americans that democratic ideal that a nation should have its own self-determination, that a people should seek their own destiny, that a community should play a more important role, that an individual should find his own avenue for fulfillment."

Two ways these ideals are expressed, Dole said, are in Vietnam and in domestic policy.

"Americans want a free and independent South Vietnam -- free from domination by Hanoi and Peking, yet also free from dependence upon American military might," he said. "In our pledge to de-Americanize Vietnam, we have already begun the first step in de-escalation by withdrawal of 25,000 combat troops this June. We shall help to achieve a self-sufficient and viable South Vietnam ready to enter into the Southeast Asian community of free nations--a sphere where nations can trade and develop.

Turning to domestic policy, Dole said, "President Nixon is calling on state governments to be more innovative, and he is trying to stimulate more local government initiative."

Dole stressed the emphasis of the Nixon Administration on bloc grants and the recent restructuring of regional HEW and HUD offices to encourage more state responsibility.

For minority groups, Dole said, the Republican Administration "is helping to replace dependence with independence."

Citing the new office of minority business enterprise as one example, he added, "It will afford new measures of self-destiny for black Americans Mexican-Americans and other minority peoples. It will bring the opportunity of purposeful and productive jobs, minority management and capital ownership into the lives of thousands of people."