

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
225-6521

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WASHINGTON, D.C., July 20 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said prospects for creation of a Presidential task force on the handicapped "are highly encouraging."

Dole's statement came after a conference late Friday with Arthur F. Burns, counsellor to President Nixon. U.S. Senator Winston L. Prouty (R-Vt.), long a supporter of legislation affecting the handicapped, also attended.

Dole, who delivered his first major Senate speech April 14 on America's 42 million physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped persons, has urged the President to develop a task force "to review what the public and private sectors are doing for the handicapped and to recommend how we can do better."

In his statement today, the Senator added, "The President is highly cognizant, as I, that it is as hard-nosed economically as it is humanitarian to help the handicapped become more useful and self-sufficient."

"I am hopeful President Nixon will act in the near future to create a top-level group to delve deeply into solving the complex problems of the handicapped," he said. "The task ahead will be monumental, but the results of providing more help and hope to the handicapped, one of our country's most neglected assets, will easily balance the challenge."