

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-6521

186

FOR RELEASE AFTER 12 NOON TUESDAY, SEPT. 30, 1969

WASHINGTON, D.C., Sept. 30 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today urged prompt Senate passage of a water pollution control bill "which places responsibility for high quality water squarely on the shoulder of those who use our lakes, rivers and coastal waters for recreation or trade."

Dole spoke in the Senate on the Water Quality Improvement Control Act, drafted by a Senate Public Works Subcommittee of which he is a member. If passed, the bill outlines federal procedures for dealing with intentional and accidental water pollution including chemicals, sewage from vessels and oil spills. A Dole-introduced amendment designates separate control measures for "sudden, accidental" deposits of hazardous substances other than oil.

"The entire bill represents a bold effort to protect human, fish and wildlife health and welfare, without inhibiting the operation of oil and maritime interests," Dole said.

The Senator's amendment would encourage federal penalties for failing to report deposit of a hazardous substance other than oil in any U.S. waterway. The legislation would be similar to oil cleanup provisions now in effect. Definition of "hazardous substances" and penalties would be recommended by the President, subject to Congressional approval.

"Hazardous substances when discharged into water can have even more serious effects than oil deposits," Dole said. "The most recent spill occurred July 9 when about 450,000 gallons of acid leaching material was released into the San Francisco river. At least 51,000 dead fish were located within the first four miles of the river."

"Although full information on effective treatment of all toxic substances is not known," Dole said, "there is technical agreement that a control program must be started, so that at least, downstream users would have early warning in order to shut down water supply systems, if necessary, and to take other measures to protect public health and the environment for fish and wildlife."