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FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
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WASHINGTON, D.C. Oct. 16---U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today introduced a bill designating certain existing U.S. highways as part of a proposed Pan American Highway, extending from Canada through the United States to Latin America.

The bill, co-sponsored by five other Senators, is the result of long-term efforts by former U.S. Senator Frank Carlson, Merle Miller, Belleville, and Senator Dole. Miller, publisher of the Belleville Telescope, is president of the Pan American Highway Association, Inc.

Highways to be included in the Pan American Highway would be those which follow the most direct route from Laredo, Texas, to the point where U.S. Highway 81 crosses the border between North Dakota and Canada. Kansas cities along the route are Wichita, Newton, Lindsborg, Concordia and Belleville.

The U.S. section of highway would connect with an already-designated Pan American Highway which begins at the Texas-Mexico border and runs through the tip of Argentina.

"In the past several years there has been growing interest in several Plains States concerning the development of an inter-continental highway linking Canada and the Latin American countries," Dole said. "Organizations in many states have been working in unison for years to promote this idea.

North-South transportation routes have largely been ignored. Our interstate highway system is primarily an east-west system and even our railroads were built, in general, from east to west," Dole added.

"The bill does not ask the Federal Government to authorize or appropriate any funds. It is a promotion of good will with our neighbors to the South. The Pan American Highway could well become an important economic artery for business to the Midwest."

Senators who co-sponsored the bill are: Quentin Burdick, N. Dakota; Fred Harris, Oklahoma; Karl E. Mundt, S. Dakota; John Tower, Texas, and Milton R. Young, N. Dakota.