

212

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. Oct. 16, 1969---"The first Vietnam moratorium is over," Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said in remarks on the Senate floor today. "The nation moves on and President Nixon continues to pursue the difficult road to an honorable peace.

"Nothing really has changed and hopefully the North Vietnamese and Vietcong have not been heartened by signs of divisiveness in our land.

"I wonder if any American President---Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon---backed by a united people might not already have secured peace. If that is true, then many young Americans, now dead, would be alive and home today.

"One of those who might still be alive, Edgar L. McWethy, Jr., ^{Baxter Springs} ~~Baxterville~~, Ks., died fighting in the cause of honor and freedom," Dole continued. "Today his parents received, in his name at the White House, the nation's highest award, the Medal of Honor. They would trade that medal willingly if peace could be brought a day nearer.

"Those who call for peace at any price can do so, because the responsibility is not theirs.

"Only the President bears the responsibility. If we surrender and retreat in Vietnam, only to face renewed and re-invigorated Communist aggression elsewhere, who will take the blame?

"Those who planned this moratorium are planning another next month. However, before it comes off, the President has scheduled a report to the people on our situation in Vietnam.

"I have no inside information on what he will say. But I do know he can point with pride to what has already been accomplished by this Administration---60,000 men to be home by the first of the year.

"There has been a major drop in casualty rates. Nobody knows better than the President that any casualty is too many.

"Americans who die are being killed by an enemy who, by their own statements, receive encouragement from Americans who are far from the battle lines.

"Those in this country who possibly prolong the war in the name of peace, might at least bear that in mind---if they are sincere."