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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

FOR RELEASE AFTER 2 PM MONDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1969

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE (R-KANS.) AT A PRESS CONFERENCE HELD BY SCOTT CARPENTER, PRESIDENT OF THE HELIUM SOCIETY. PURPOSE OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE IS TO ANNOUNCE PLANS FOR A HELIUM SYMPOSIUM MARCH 23-24, 1970 HERE.

"I'M HAPPY TO BE HERE TODAY FOR TWO REASONS. AS A SENATOR FROM KANSAS, I AM PROUD OF THE ROLE MY STATE HAS PLAYED IN BOTH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE MODERN HELIUM INDUSTRY AND THE CONTRIBUTION OF HELIUM RESOURCES TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMY, PARTICULARLY TO THE SPACE EFFORT.

"I AM ALSO PLEASED TO BE ABLE TO INTRODUCE AN OUTSTANDING AMERICAN WHOSE OWN EXPLOITS HAVE BEEN DRAMATIC AND EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF U.S. SCIENCE.

"I REFER TO FORMER NAVY COMMANDER SCOTT CARPENTER, THE ONLY AMERICAN TO HAVE SERVED AS BOTH AN ASTRONAUT AND AN AQUANAUT. AS ONE OF THE ORIGINAL SEVEN NASA ASTRONAUTS, COMMDR. CARPENTER WAS THE SECOND AMERICAN TO ORBIT THE EARTH, IN THE AURORA 7, A THREE-ORBIT FLIGHT WHICH TOOK PLACE ON MAY 24, 1962. IN 1965, AFTER RETURNING TO ACTIVE DUTY WITH THE NAVY, HE BECAME AN AQUANAUT AND WAS A TEAM LEADER IN THE SEALAB II EXPERIMENT, WHERE HE LIVED FOR 30 DAYS BENEATH THE SEAS.

"COMMDR. CARPENTER CLOSED HIS 22-YEAR NAVY CAREER LAST JULY AND SHORTLY AFTER ASSUMED THE PRESIDENCY OF THE HELIUM SOCIETY, AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE WISE USE AND CONSERVATION OF THE RARE ELEMENT -- HELIUM. COMMDR. CARPENTER HAS ALSO UNDERTAKEN HIS OWN OCEANOGRAPHIC DEVELOPMENT AND RESEARCH FIRM, SEA SCIENCES CORPORATION.

"COMMDR. CARPENTER APPEARS TODAY WITH HIS HELIUM HAT ON -- AND I AM PLEASED TO INTRODUCE HIM: SCOTT CARPENTER.