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WASHINGTON, D.C. Dec. 23 -- ^{#307} "Overall, the accomplishments of the first session of the 91st Congress could best be described as 'average,'" U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said today.

Dole said he believed the slow start was partly due to the time it takes a new Administration to get organized.

"However," he said, "Congress is Democrat-controlled and the Democrats must share the responsibility for that slow start.

"Nearly every Senator agrees that we should have and perhaps could have moved faster on appropriations. Perhaps the biggest shortcoming of this session was failing to act on President Nixon's crime proposal; also no action was taken on the Administration's welfare reform proposal and Congress failed to face up to inflation by not cutting federal spending more."

Dole said pluses for the Nixon administration include:
A new direction in Vietnam;
A new direction for foreign policy;
A new direction for the draft, and, above all,
Restoration of confidence in the government by the general public.

"The next session will be faster moving and more political," Dole predicted. "There may possibly be frequent confrontations between Congress and the President because it is an election year."