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LAWRENCE, Kans., Feb. 12 -- Reform has been the keystone of President Nixon's first year in office and the problem of inflation has proved to be one of his chief domestic concerns, U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said ~~last night~~ ^{tonight} at the Lawrence Republican Women's Lincoln Day Dinner.

Dole likened inflation to "a cancer -- one which eats into our economy robbing citizens of the just rewards of their work." "Like cancer," he warned, "the effect can be fatal if immediate steps are not taken to remedy it."

He said the present economic spiral began five years ago with the massive expansion of American forces in Vietnam. "Deficit spending became necessary," Dole said, "because taxes were not increased by Congress and President Johnson in accordance with the great deal of money infused into the economy due to the war build-up. Johnson's policy of 'guns and butter both' resulted in a \$25 billion deficit for 1968."

Dole suggested an easy way to stop inflation would be to "slam on the breaks," by taking such extreme measures as establishing price controls. He added, however, that such steps could lead to "a period of recession, or even worse, a depression."

"The President, Dole said, has taken a more responsible but politically unpopular stand -- that of "simply cooling down the economy." The Kansas senator called for the cooperation of all Americans in the Nixon Administration's endeavor to return good health to the nation's economy."