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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. Feb. 24 -- In a statement before the Senate Small Business Monopoly Subcommittee today, U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said the remaining days of hearings could do much "to restore a sense of perspective" to the subcommittee's investigation of oral contraceptives.

Hearings were resumed today after a month-long recess. Dole is a member of the subcommittee.

"There have been reports of significant numbers of women abandoning oral contraceptives, largely in response to the publicity generated by these hearings," Dole said. "More alarming still, some preliminary reports indicate the appearance of unwanted pregnancies resulting from this shift in birth control techniques.

"We are dealing with highly complex and sensitive medical questions about which competent physicians have fundamental differences of opinion. We laymen should not attempt to cast these questions and issues in hard and fast, yes-no terms.

"We should strenuously seek to pursue all avenues of inquiry and probe all relevant aspects of the matter we are dealing with.

"Our goal should be to understand and to help the public understand the full range of good and ill, certainty and doubt, fact and fallacy of overall contraceptive use.

"If we can keep these principals in mind, we can still do a great service for the public generally and oral contraceptive users in particular."