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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. March 4 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today criticized the Senate hearings on oral contraceptives for frightening and confusing American women.

Dole, a member of the Monopoly Subcommittee of the Select Committee on Small Business which started pill hearings in January, said the initial testimony was largely onesided.

"As a result, the publicity over-emphasized the risks and fears and paid little attention to the benefits and effectiveness of the pill," Dole said.

"Frankly I do not believe public hearings should have been held on this important topic, nor do I believe the monopoly subcommittee has jurisdiction over this highly important area of concern.

"The hearings also failed to disclose any new medical knowledge.

"American women are entitled to know the facts and since the subcommittee has proceeded to only confuse, it now has an overriding and immediate responsibility to issue a report setting forth findings and conclusions."