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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA, NOV. 9, 1970 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today said, "An important factor which hurt many Republican candidates was the 'short memory' of thousands of American voters."

Dole spoke at the annual convention of the United States Savings and Loan League.

The Kansas Senator, after having been on the campaign trail for several months, said, "The successes in Vietnam very probably meant failure at the polls in many instances. As I travelled around the country, it was obvious that President Nixon had great strength and was generally well accepted, but that 'PEACE instead of WAR' though highly desirable, appeared less important than the Bread and Butter issues -- again because of our failing to put everything in proper perspective."

"I do not for a moment suggest war or peace should be partisan, but believe the successful efforts of this administration in South Vietnam should have had more emphasis. Republican leaders should have been on the offensive, pointing up day after day that the problems in our economy -- including inflation and unemployment -- were fueled by the very expansion of the war that President Nixon inherited and was ending and by the irresponsible spending policies of Democrat administrations in the 60's."

Dole charged that, "Democrats were permitted -- with little resistance from our side -- to play down the war and to emphasize unemployment and inflation."

"Two years ago the Vietnam War was number one on the minds of a great majority of Americans, while runaway inflation and excessive Federal spending were secondary issues. With the advent of President Nixon and the de-escalation of the war in Vietnam, voters' priorities changed. Inflation and unemployment moved to the front, while the Vietnam War moved well down the list."

"Certainly no one faults President Nixon for extricating us from the tragic war he inherited, and it is not unusual for

President Nixon or anyone to receive little credit for a job well done. In my opinion, this was the case insofar as the President's successful role in Vietnam was concerned."

Dole said that he considered the election returns a "mixed bag" but that President Nixon will be in a better position in the 92nd Congress than the 91st.

Dole explained that although President Nixon wanted a Republican Congress, "he campaigned for Republican candidates in good faith -- as a responsible leader -- within the Democratic process -- he could do no more."

"In many cases the outcome of the elections last week was a result of the way people responded to the economic crisis. Democrat candidates effectively used scare tactics that invoked visions of the bread lines in the 30's."

Dole said that although President Nixon could have used the many tools at the President's disposal for short-term manipulation of the economy, he did not, "That is the kind of President he is. He can be trusted, and he deserves our trust."

Explaining current legislative matters affecting business, Dole said, "You, along with other businessmen, must be prepared to assume more and more of the burdens which government has taken on itself over the years."

"This administration, and future Republican administrations, are going to be working to decentralize, to put power and responsibility out where it belongs -- with the people."