

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
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WICHITA, KANSAS, JAN. 7, 1971 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today praised the 91st Congress for approving his proposal to repeal the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin Resolution. Dole said it was one of the most significant, although least-publicized acts of the recently expired Congress.

Dole, speaking to members of the Kansas Livestock Association at their annual meeting in Wichita, Kansas, said, "Repeal of the Tonkin Gulf Resolution by Congress and approval by the President demonstrates that both are firmly committed to disengagement in Southeast Asia."

Repeal of the measure President Johnson had repeatedly cited as authority for escalating United States involvement in the Vietnam war was brought about through an amendment Dole offered to the 1970 Foreign Military Sales Act. Although it was passed by the Senate on June 30 of last year, full Congressional approval was not given until December 31, two days before Congress adjourned.

"The fact that repeal received little national attention was probably due to its being initiated by a supporter of Nixon's Southeast Asia policies," Dole said. "There were volumes written and spoken in condemnation of the resolution while it was still in effect, but there has hardly been a word about repeal and its significance."

Dole added that he had the feeling some so-called "anti-war" Senators has hoped to undertake repeal of the resolution and in so doing imply that President Nixon would have used it to expand the war if it were not repealed. "And that would have made headlines for sure," Dole commented.

"By having repeal included in a bill which must be approved by the President, President Nixon has the opportunity to participate in the process and demonstrate his continued commitment to de-escalation," Dole said.

"The Tonkin Gulf Resolution has not been relied upon by this Administration in any way. It was an instrument of

escalation in the previous Administration and was certainly not a part of Nixon's foreign policy. Dole added, "In pursuit of his disengagement policy, President Nixon has always met or exceeded his schedules for troop withdrawals, and by spring more than 265,500 of our men will have been returned home."

Turning to an area of particular interest to his audience, Dole said, "An area of vital concern to agriculture is the environment. Pollution is a concern of everyone, and its relation to the livestock industry will come to a head in the interpretation of the Water Quality Standards scheduled for enforcement by 1975."

"Due to the impact to these regulations on the feedlot industry of Kansas, I have asked the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Agriculture to review existing laws and regulations and provide me with recommendations for action. Recommendations will be available for use during the upcoming Senate Public Works Committee hearings on Water Pollution Legislation. I have also requested the Chairman of our committee to set aside sufficient time to explore the problems of agricultural pollution and, particularly, feedlot pollution. We hope to have witnesses from Kansas so you will have a full opportunity to outline your specific problems and needs."