

CHILD HEALTH DAY

WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 4, 1971 ----U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.), on the occasion of national Child Health Day, pointed out today that the infant mortality rate in the United States is at its lowest point in history, but that it still ranks below several other nations in reducing infant mortality to the lowest achievable level.

The 1970 provional figure for the U.S. infant mortality rate is 19.8 per thousand live births.

"Much remains to be done," Dole said, "if we are to provide needed health protections for our growing citizens, particularly those boys and girls who live in densly populated, low income urban areas and in isolated rural areas."

A member of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, Dole stressed his concern that all parents be given the opportunity to bear and raise healthy normal children.

The Kansas Senator urged:

We must dedicate ourselves to see that those children who suffer from mental or physical handicaps or illnesses are provided the best possible care and rehabilitation, for they too, are our future citizens.

I hope that on Child Health Day 1971, we can measure our progress and once again set new goals for the year ahead to bring better health to our nation's children.

Dole has been a leading proponent of legislation to aid the handicap since first elected to Congress in 1960.

Child Health Day was first proclaimed by President Hoover in 1929, and has been observed each year since then. Since 1956, by agreement with the United Nation and the United Nation's Children's Fund, Child Health Day has been observed in conjunction with Universal Children's Day, which falls on the first Monday in October.

"This double observance," Dole said, "emphasizes our concern as a nation not only for the health of our own children, but for those in other countries which are striving as we are, to make childhood a healthy and emotionally secure time for all children."