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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., JANUARY 14, 1972 -- A letter from Governor Robert Docking was received today by U.S. Senator Bob Dole. The letter, written by Docking, accuses Senator Dole of a partisan attack on the Docking administration in connection with recent disclosures of irregularities in the hiring practices of the Docking administration under the Emergency Employment Act. The irregularities disclosed were primarily in the Wichita area.

The Department of Labor, on Tuesday afternoon, released a report on an investigation of charges, made largely by veterans, that their applications had been passed over in favor hiring Democrat party faithful.

Numerous complaints had been received by Senators Dole and James Pearson and U.S. Congressman Garner Shriver concerning these hiring practices. These complaints were forwarded to the Department of Labor for consideration. The Labor Department then undertook an investigation leading to the disclosure of favoritism.

"Governor Docking and his aides should read the newspapers more carefully," Bill Kats, Administrative Assistant to Senator Dole said today. "Senator Dole has made no accusations against Governor Docking nor anyone else in his office. The only comment made was in response to a question by a newspaper reporter who asked the Senator about the complaints he had received," Kats said.

Kats added, "Senator Dole feels strongly about unemployed veterans in Wichita and other areas, particularly the Vietnam veterans.

The guidelines are clear: 'The goal is for at least 1/3 of all participants who served in the armed forces on or after August 5, 1964 who received other than a dishonorable discharge shall be given jobs.'

This edict leaves no doubt as to the intent of Congress and the President on giving preference to Vietnam veterans and, the people of this nation, who pay 80% of the cost of this program, expect the administrators of these programs to adhere to the guidelines."