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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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TOPEKA, KANSAS, MAY 28, 1972 -- Senator Bob Dole today addressed a Memorial Day crowd at "Moore Bowl" on the Washburn University campus in Topeka. The following are excerpts from his speech:

In a day when peace is on the ascendancy -- when the President's inaugural prediction that the "times are on the side of peace" appears to be proving true -- we must take special care to remember those who have sacrificed for America, who have made sacrifices in the cause of peace by bearing arms in earlier wars. Especially, we must remember those who have fought, and have now returned from battle in Vietnam....

We now are emerging from a war different from any in our history. It has been a long and baffling experience, an experience which has divided our people on the most fundamental issues of war and peace....

It has created human problems for each of us, and none more profound than the problems of our veterans....

At best, these young men come home in anonymity to be met with indifference....

We have many readjustments to make in accommodating our nation and our economy to peace once again. The road will be especially difficult for the men we are bringing home, but we can at least walk with them and not turn aside. And we must -- because, when America called them, they did not turn aside....

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The problem of drug addiction, as you know, is critical. Special care is being provided for returning veterans who are addicted and many thousands will receive treatment and rehabilitation through VA facilities....

The Jobs for Veterans programs which President Nixon created two years ago is active in 47 states and 285 cities....

But let us recognize that programs alone are not enough...one of their greatest problems is just simple communications...the feeling so many have is not really being a part of their own people any longer -- of being exiles in their own land.... I think that of all the problems which confront our veterans, this is the one each of us as an individual can most directly have a hand in solving.... We can do it by simply reaching out our hands to them....

So let each who bore this battle in his heart reach out to those who bore it on their bodies, resolving that the lessons of this time have not been taught in vain, that the seeds of sacrifice shall not have fallen on barren ground, and that this nation, with God's guidance, shall turn from this harsh winter of war to a new and lasting spring of peace and hope and promise for all our people....