



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- In a statement on the Senate floor today Senator Bob Dole spoke out in favor of legislation to authorize a one year trial suspension of local sports T.V. blackouts. Dole, a cosponsor of the bill said that "in the 1950's and '60's there was a need to assist professional sports by granting them a special privilege, one not accorded to other enterprises -- an exemption from the anti-trust laws which enabled them to enter broadcasting contracts which restricted television coverage of a team's home games. There was a need, and this privilege Congress granted to the NFL has had its intended effect."

"I feel the likelihood of some, uncertain adverse impact from reduced actual attendance is far outweighed by the interests of the millions of loyal and enthusiastic local fans who want to see their teams when they play at home -- as well as when they are on the road."

Dole had written many Kansans in the black-out area to ask their feelings on the legislation. "After receiving a response of 13 to 1 in favor of suspension for one year of the sports blackout," Dole said, "I feel the monetary interests of a few are far outweighed by the general public's interest in having a trial run at ending the blackouts."

"This is an experiment worth trying, and it should be begun at the earliest possible date, so local fans in Kansas City and all the other NFL home areas can see their teams in action at home during the 1973 season."