



NEWS from

U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE PREDICTS A "YEAR OF HEALTH" IN CONGRESS

WICHITA, KANSAS--Senator Bob Dole today said that he foresees major progress in 1974 toward the enactment of national health care legislation.

In a speech prepared for delivery to the Sedgwick County Medical Society, the Kansas Senator said he believed a middle road would be taken between the extremes of nationalizing the medical and insurance fields and failure to take any action to solve the current problems.

"There is enough common sense and reason in the House and Senate to see that doing away with the entire private health sector is not the way to solve our problems, but there is also recognition that there are problems and shortcomings in our present system which ought to be remedied.

"We in American today are fortunate in having the most advanced, skillful and competent health care system and personnel in the world. I do not believe any other country even remotely approaches our medical system on these points and on the devotion or selfless concern of the individuals who provide that care.

"Unfortunately, it is also true that all Americans do not fully benefit from this great National asset. And this fact is not hard to understand when an average delivery and caring for a new baby approaches \$1,000; and when the cost of care during a major terminal illness such as cancer exceeds \$20,000.

"There facts are of great concern to millions of Americans in and out of the health care fields. And the rising awareness of them has led to a broad effort by many individuals and groups to come up with answers and solutions.

"Many of these efforts have resulted in legislative proposals being put before the Congress, and aside from the Kennedy Bill -- which would have the Government take over the practice and provision of health care -- the vast majority of the different proposals being talked about today are reconcilable. They differ in many important respects, but by and large they are capable of being compromised into an effective and responsible approach to meeting the health care needs of the American people"

Senator Dole, who is a member of the Senate Finance Committee which has jurisdiction over all national health insurance proposals.

Senator Dole pointed to the Catastrophic Health Insurance Bill which he co-sponsored with Senator Russell Long of Louisiana and others and the Nixon Administration Comprehensive Health Insurance Plan as two "constructive and promising" approaches.