

751



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

FOR RELEASE SATURDAY PM's  
MARCH 2, 1974

## DOLE CAUTIONS ON DEFENSE MANPOWER AND FUEL COSTS

KANSAS CITY -- Senator Bob Dole today said that the new \$85 billion defense budget shows a substantial "peace dividend" for the American public. But he cautioned that rising costs for fuel and manpower threaten to have a serious impact on overall defense spending.

Speaking to Chapter 45 of the Reserve Officers Association at Richards-Gebaur Air Force Base, Senator Dole said that the new budget request is some \$8.3 billion over last year's level. However, he pointed to figures which show the Defense Department budget request for 1975 holding approximately level with 1974 and 1973 in terms of constant-dollars that account for inflation's impact.

"There is no doubt that this is a sizeable sum, but when compared to 1968 -- the peak year of Vietnam War outlays -- 1975 represents a \$39 billion reduction in overall defense spending. And going back to 1964, before the Vietnam buildup began, the 1975 figures still show an \$8 billion decline.

"As the average citizen looks at his taxes, defense spending in this budget takes 29 cents out of each dollar -- compared with 30 cents last year, 41 cents in 1964 and 49.8 cents in 1960.

Senator Dole also cited two factors -- military pay and fuel -- which are growing significantly and will add to defense costs.

"With the end of the draft and upgrading of military pay rates, defense manpower costs now account for 55 percent of total outlays -- more than the combined total for operations, procurement, research and development, and construction."

"The energy crisis is taking its toll on the military, too. Even counting a 15% reduction in fuel consumption achieved through ending the Vietnam War and strenuous conservation programs, the Pentagon's fuel bill will show an increase of 128 percent from 1973 to 1975."

-----