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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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SENATE FAILS TO PASS ANTI-BUSING PROVISION

WASHINGTON, D.C.--By a narrow margin, the Senate today defeated efforts of Senator Bob Dole and others to limit forced busing of school children. The 47-46 vote came on a motion to table an amendment identical to one sponsored by Senator Bob Dole. The vote to table is a parliamentary maneuver and its passage meant the amendment's virtual defeat.

The amendment would have provided that busing could be employed as a means of school integration "only as a last resort," in Dole's words, "thereby preserving to every extent possible the concept of the neighborhood school." Dole said that while he had consistently supported measures designed to promote integration itself, he had "steadfastly opposed efforts to promote busing as a viable means to accomplish desegregation, and will continue just as strongly to maintain that position.

"This amendment must not be construed by any reasonable and fair-minded observer as an attempt to repeal the true progress and advancement we have made in reaching our present status." Instead Dole said the amendment is a responsible gesture demonstrating a readiness to "face the issue of busing squarely and go on record as favoring all other alternatives available before reverting to this last resort."

Closing his argument for the proposed amendment, Dole quoted and concurred with the statement of Linda Brown Smith of Topeka when she was asked about busing, "I am not for it at all... If there is another solution that would give us our neighborhood schools and still give us an integrated school system, I would rather see that." Linda Brown Smith is the woman whose name was attached to the Brown v. Topeka Board decision of 1954.

Senator Dole introduced his anti-busing amendment on March 27, after the House passed a similar measure. Since that time several similar and identical measures have been introduced in the Senate and the one that was tabled today was sponsored by Senator Edward Gurney, with Dole as a cosponsor.

Dole also said today that he plans to introduce Thursday a separate amendment having to do with Agency-ordered desegregation plans. Dole's planned amendment would require that communities under such orders be granted "reasonable time" for preparation of plans on compliance. Dole said he intended this amendment specifically to grant relief to school districts like USD 501^{of Topeka}, which on May 12 was given only 60 days in which to prepare its plan.