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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE CALLS FOR END TO "BARBARIC CRUELTY"

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Late yesterday, before leaving for Kansas, Senator Bob Dole introduced legislation that would prohibit the departments and agencies of the Federal Government from using dogs "in any scientific, quasi-scientific, medical or quasi-medical research or experiment likely to result in needless or excessive suffering by such dog." Introducing his bill, Dole said, "It is time for the Congress to help stop this barbaric cruelty."

Dole introduced the bill in response to many complaints from Kansans concerning the use of beagles, by the Army, to test various gasses and fumes. In his floor statement, Dole said that last December he had written John L. McLucas, Secretary of the Air Force, to protest experiments using beagle dogs to test environmental pollutants at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio. At that time, Dole was assured it was not the policy of the U.S. Armed Services to conduct experiments that would cause needless suffering and torture of domestic animals.

Since that time, Dole has learned that the Edgewood Arsenal Research Center has advertised for 450 beagle puppies to be used in experiments with toxic materials used in chemical and biological warfare. Dole said, "Those dogs that do not die during these painful experiments are killed later for autopsies to study the effects of the gases. It is obvious to me," Dole continued, "that it will take more than the public outcry to halt these experiments and provide for the humane treatment of these domestic animals. It is necessary for Congress to respond swiftly to this problem and put an end to these practices which are so abhorrent to the American people."