



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 1976

HEARINGS TO BE SCHEDULED TO EXAMINE S.S.I. ERROR RATE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--The Senate Finance Committee, at the request of Senator Bob Dole, will schedule hearings to examine the costly administrative errors in the Supplemental Security Income program. Recent news reports indicate that the federalized welfare program has overpaid its clients by \$547 million in the first two years of operation.

The \$547 million estimate, while startling, is still an understatement. As yet, all cases have not been reexamined for error. More significantly, any person receiving a SSI payment is automatically eligible for medicaid. No estimate is available of the total medicaid dollars incorrectly paid on behalf of SSI ineligible.

"One of the more disturbing aspects of the problem is that the error rate has increased significantly since the Federal government took over the program from the states," Dole said. "While it is not unusual for a new program to have problems in the early stages, SSI's problems seem to be increasing as the program grows older. An error rate of 28.8% in new, federally handled cases in the last half of 1974 climbed to 30.3% in the first half of 1975."

"This country has always been generous with the truly needy members of our society. But the taxpayers have the right to demand that the generosity not exceed the need," Dole continued. "The administration of our welfare programs must be made efficient and effective."

Dole has introduced legislation to require all Congressional committees to examine programs under their jurisdiction to identify and eliminate waste, duplication, and inefficiency."