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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE WARNS MIDWESTERN G.O.P. CHAIRMEN NOT TO BECOME PREOCCUPIED WITH PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--"We cannot allow our fascination with Presidential politics to obscure the enormous challenge that exists for the Republican party in Congressional and State and local races this year," Senator Bob Dole warned a meeting of Midwestern Republican Chairmen in Washington this morning.

The former Republican National Chairman pointed out that in 1952, "the twelve states of the Midwest were as solid a Republican stronghold as ever there was -- with 18 Republicans in the Senate and 6 Democrats. Today, in 1976, it's just the opposite, with 6 Republicans and 18 Democrats representing those same 12 states."

"But while figures of Midwest Republican decline are gloomy today, there are an awful lot of circumstances coming together in 1976 which ought to make it possible for Republicans to take the initiative in the coming Congressional, Senatorial and State and local campaigns."

"The people don't like big government. The Democrats gave it to them."

"The people don't like federal spending that has gone out of control. The Democrats -- the Democrats in Congress -- gave it to them."

"Whether they know it or not -- most people in this country have adopted our Republican message."

Dole said the biggest danger in 1976 is that "at precisely the right moment for Republican political philosophy to carry the day, the same Democrats who won in the past with false promises, may win in the future using Republican arguments, using our issues and our commitments to restrain government."

"We must remind people that what they believe today is what Republicans have always stood for. If we do that over the next 4 months -- if we do it together in unity and Republican solidarity -- then come election day, we will find that we won't be standing alone."

Asked about possible challenges to his election as Temporary Chairman of the Republican Convention, Dole said he had been in contact with Reagan campaign organizers and "I cannot foresee any problems with my becoming Temporary Chairman. Lynn Nofziger, Governor Reagan's convention manager, and I are close personal friends and he knows I will carry out any duties in a fair and even-handed manner."