

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE SAYS BUDGET MUST NOT BE BALANCED ON THE BACKS OF THE ELDERLY POPULATION

DODGE CITY, KS-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) said this morning that while he continues to favor a balanced federal budget, he opposes "any proposal that would attempt to balance the federal budget by heaping any increased burden on the backs of our elderly population."

Dole, who held hearings on the nutrition needs of older Americans in Wichita and Kansas City, Kansas, this week, told a breakfast audience in Dodge City this morning, "Anyone who attended our hearing, or anyone who has visited a nursing home or a Senior Center, knows that these are not easy times for our elderly citizens. During the past ten days here in Kansas I have made a point to try and highlight their plight-- and assure them that they are not going to be abandoned by their government or the rest of society," said Dole.

Older Americans Act

The Kansas Republican said, "It is important we, as citizens, maintain a sense of responsibility towards those who are not prepared to withstand the winds of double-digit inflation. In Kansas there are nearly 400,000 citizens aged 60 or over. And more than 350,000 of these older Kansans are served by the Older Americans Act. This program reaches out all over our state to touch and enrich their lives. I will continue to support this Act in Congress, for I believe that a society must be judged, to a great degree, by the way it cares for its elderly population. I am committed to the proposition that all of our elderly citizens are entitled to respect, dignity and a reasonable standard of living, rather than a life of misery and despair."

Rural Elderly

Dole added that, "The rural elderly of our state have special problems. More than 40 percent of our older citizens live in rural areas of the state. It is my hope that the hearings we held in Kansas this past week will allow us to propose improvements that will allow services to be delivered to them in an effective manner."