

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: BILL FRITTS
(202) 224-8944

DOLE CONCERNED OVER UPSURGE OF CRIME RATE SCORES DEMOCRATS ON DISMANTLING LEAA

WASHINGTON Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today decried the widespread increase of crime during the Carter Administration. Recently released figures by the FBI reveal that crime is on the rise nationwide by an annual rate of over 10 percent (in close competition with the rate of inflation under Carter).

Despite this dramatic upsurge, the present administration has reacted by cutting the budget of the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration (LEAA), the very agency aiding state and local authorities fight crime. Senator Dole described President Carter's treatment of LEAA:

"In December of 1979, the President signed a 4-year extension which included a new, revamped organizational structure. A month later, the President requested a 10 percent budget increase for LEAA, most of which would have gone to state and local governments.

"However, just 60 days later, the President in his 'budget balancing' message to Congress reversed gears by calling for a 70 percent cut in these programs, including almost 90 percent of the state assistance."

The Democratic-controlled Congress for the most part, acquiesced to the President's request. LEAA is being dismantled despite the absence of any evaluation of its performance and despite the nationwide increase in crime. As the Senior Senator from Kansas surmised, "The Administration's action appears totally arbitrary and evidences the vacillation with which we have become all too familiar. The LEAA program, lacking a specific special interest group fighting for it, has become a politically cheap source for spending cuts, regardless of the consequences to society."