



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE RENEWS CALL FOR CHANGE IN TERRORIST BAIL LAW

Washington, D.C. -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan) said today the continued threats of mass violence by Hanafi Muslim leader Hamaas Abdul Khaalis emphasize the urgent need for a law to prohibit the immediate release from custody of terrorists.

Dole introduced a bill on March 28 that he said would remove the pretrial freedom of terrorists from the terms that are subject to negotiation while hostages are still being held.

His bill would require the incarceration of accused terrorists until a judge has scheduled a detention hearing. And then the judge would be specifically authorized to consider the public safety factor in setting bail conditions.

PLOTTING NEW REVENGE

Last month, Khaalis and 11 other gunmen seized 134 hostages at three locations in Washington. Before the hostages were freed, authorities promised Khaalis that he would not be jailed pending trial on armed kidnapping charges.

"The leader of this gang of gunmen was back home plotting new acts of revenge before his terror-stricken victims were safely reunited with their families." Dole declared in a statement issued today.

On Thursday, Khaalis was arrested and ordered to jail, ending 20 days of freedom. Police who tapped his telephone said they overheard him threatening to kill unidentified individuals.

The original release of the gunmen "runs contrary to the American sense of justice," Dole observed when his legislation was introduced.

SUGGESTS NATIONAL FORUM

He urged the Senate Judiciary Committee to consider the terrorism questions in the larger context of the need for review of the entire federal bail system. Dole said the Bail Reform Act of 1966 went too far by restricting a judge's determination of bail to a single consideration -- whether the defendant would be likely to flee if he were released on his own promise to appear for trial. The Senator referred to frequent reports of new crimes by defendants awaiting trial on previous charges.

The U.S. Judicial Conference, the policymaking body of the federal judiciary, recently recommended that community safety be added to the considerations guiding a judge's bail-setting decisions.

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Dole stressed that the pretrial freedom or incarceration issue is only one element in the difficult problem of dealing with deranged individuals who threaten the lives of hostages. He recommended the organization of a national forum representing the news media, law enforcement officials and other interested groups to consider how best to deal with the problem in the future.