



# **NEWS** from **U.S. Senator Bob Dole**

(R.—Kans.)

**New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521**  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON  
FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1977

## SENATE CONSIDERS DOLE MEASURE RESTRICTING BENEFITS FOR UPGRADED DISCHARGES

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole today introduced an amendment that would bar individuals whose discharges are upgraded under President Carter's special upgrading program, from receiving veterans' benefits. Dole withdrew his amendment after being assured by Senator Alan Cranston, Chairman of the Veterans Affairs Committee and Senate Majority Whip, that the Senate would consider a similar measure, in bill form, next week.

"In my opinion, the President's Discharge Review Program has the effect of eliminating the character of discharge, because it makes it so easy to get a less-than-honorable discharge upgraded. It seems to me that to automatically grant veterans benefit entitlements to veterans whose discharges have been upgraded under such criteria would definitely undermine the special significance of honorable service," Dole said on the Senate floor.

Dole also pointed out the tremendous cost involved in granting benefits to individuals with the newly upgraded discharges. "It has been estimated that 117,500 veterans with less-than-honorable discharges will request to have them upgraded to 'honorable' or 'general, under honorable conditions.' Although cost estimates of the Administration and the Department of Defense vary, the cost to the Veterans Administration alone could be \$200 million in the next five years. In addition to these 'benefit costs,' DOD estimates their administrative costs to be between \$4 to 6 million, not including the cost of salaries."