



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1977

DOLE SAYS ADMINISTRATION ACTIONS CAUSE VETERANS' MORALE TO HIT 45-YEAR LOW

BOSTON, MASS. -- Senator Bob Dole said today that, in his opinion, "this year's observance of Veteran's Day finds lower morale among the nation's veterans than at any time in the last 45 years. Not since the Veterans' Bonus Army marched on Washington in 1932 has despair over the veteran's status in our society been so widespread," Dole continued in remarks prepared for delivery at a meeting of the Yankee Milk Producers in Boston Monday night.

"Since the advent of the Carter Administration in January of this year, we have seen a series of one low blow after another. In fact, President Carter's first official act as President was to grant a blanket pardon to all those who refused to serve their country in the last war -- a direct blow to the honor and memory of those who served and sacrificed."

"In the nine months that have followed," Dole noted, "the Carter Administration has reflected a number of positions which are cause for personal concern among the nation's veterans -- upgrading of discharges for those who deserted, approval of presumptive findings of death for those missing in Southeast Asia, consideration of ending veterans' preference in hiring, and a disturbing lack of success in lowering veterans' unemployment figures."

"In addition, veterans are puzzled and concerned about the new foreign and defense policies provided by the Carter Administration. The American people have hardly been able to keep up with these new departures, tumbling from the White House one after another: withdrawal from Korea, downgrading of Taiwan, recognition of Cuba and Vietnam, the President's U.N. Ambassador warmly praising the victorious struggle of North Vietnam and the President's Action Director attending the North Vietnamese victory celebration, bringing the Soviets back into the Middle East with a joint declaration, cancelling the B-1, and of course, the Panama Canal Treaties."

"On this Veterans Day in 1977, it is time for us all to pause and consider the vital role that our servicemen have performed during the course of this nation's history," Dole stated. "And it is time to translate that consideration into active efforts that will serve the basic needs as well as the honor of our veterans -- not detract from them."