

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1983

CONTACT: SCOTT RICHARDSON
(202) 224-6521

DOLE WILL INTRODUCE NEW ANTI-CRIME BILL

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.), commenting upon President Reagan's veto of an omnibus anti-crime bill passed by the 97th Congress, said today that he intends to introduce a modified version of the legislation early in the new Congress.

Dole said that his bill would not contain controversial provisions which the President objected to and which were the basis for the veto. Those provisions would have established a cabinet-level official whose sole responsibility would have been to coordinate drug law enforcement efforts among several federal agencies such as the FBI, DEA, and Treasury.

"My bill will concentrate on the criminal justice assistance provisions of the legislation," Dole said. "The bill we passed in the last Congress would have established an Office of Justice Assistance which would have responsibility for administering a limited grant in aid program. That grant program would make funds available to state and local law enforcement agencies for the purpose of initiating new anti-crime programs which have had a successful track record in fighting crime, such as 'sting' programs. I believe that such a limited, highly targeted grant program would be of tremendous value in our battle with the criminal element."

Dole said that the new legislation would establish a special grant program in the Department of Justice which would provide assistance to States in renovating and constructing new prison facilities to comply with court orders rendered in cases filed by state prisoners. Thirty-nine states are presently involved in lawsuits filed by prisoners alleging unconstitutional conditions in the State Institutions.

"I look forward to working with Senator Specter (R-Pa.) to see that legislation can be enacted to meet these objectives," said Dole.

Senator Arlen Specter was a principal sponsor of the bill vetoed by the President today.