

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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TOP VA OFFICIAL RESPONDS TO DOLE INQUIRY ON TOPEKA HOSPITAL  
FULL REPORT TO BE ON DOLE'S DESK WITHIN THREE WEEKS

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole said today that the Veterans Administration has promised him that a full report into alleged deficiencies at the Topeka Colmery-O'Neil VA Medical Center will be on his desk within three weeks. Harry N. Walters, the top Veterans Administration official, made the statement in a letter to Senator Dole.

"I am pleased that Administrator Walters has moved so quickly on this matter," said Senator Dole. "The allegations that have been made raise serious questions concerning the adequacy of care at the Colmery-O'Neil Medical Center. My staff has been in contact with hospital officials there, and we will continue to work with them towards resolving any problems."

In late July, Senator Dole received a field report compiled by the American Legion which cited possible inadequacies in staffing and safe nursing coverage on some psychiatric units at the Topeka facility. Also raised was the possibility of inadequate fire safety.

Senator Dole wrote to Administrator Walters on July 29, and sent along a copy of the American Legion field report. Dole asked Walters to look into the matter and advise him of conditions. The Kansas Senator also asked to be advised of any specific legislative action that may be necessary to assist the Veterans Administration in this matter.

In his response to Senator Dole, Walters reported that the Veterans Administration is now examining the situation in Topeka, and that a "comprehensive reply" was on the way.