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SENATE FLOOR STATEMENT -- LEWIS F. POWELL JR
BY U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE

The nomination of Lewis F. Powell, Jr. to be an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, provides a clear sign of President Nixon's continuing commitment to bring Americans of the very highest personal and professional qualifications to the Court as well as his recognition of the great importance of a nomination to the Court.

In his statement announcing the nomination of Lewis Powell the President pointed out the significance of a nomination to the Court. A justice's appointment is for life. Once seated, his only obligation is to the constitution and to the people of whom the government is constituted. A President has more influence -- by design or by happenstance -- through a Supreme Court appointment than by any other act in the domestic area. If a President's deeds can be said to endure beyond his term in office they do so in the men he places on the Supreme Court. Thus, a great opportunity and a great responsibility is given a President and consequently to the Senate in considering those who might be chosen to fill one of the nine seats on the world's most powerful and important judicial body.

Distinction and honor have been the hallmarks of Lewis Powell's lifetime of service to the law, his state and his nation. Both in private practice and in public service he has consistently exemplified the qualities of intellect and character required of those who would sit on the United States' highest tribunal. In addition, he is an individual possessing the judicially conservative attitudes the President seeks to have represented on the Court.

He will bring to the Supreme Court the same assets and strengths which have already propelled him to high positions of responsibility and respect among his colleagues and fellow citizens.

His philosophical dedication and practical devotion to our system of "Equal Justice Under Law" give every indication that he will emerge as a powerful influence within the Court.

President Nixon has been afforded a unique opportunity to reshape the prevailing attitude of the Supreme Court. Four vacancies within a three-year period have made it possible for him to move directly and decisively toward fulfillment of his commitment to the American public that he would provide the Court a conservative judicial outlook.

The records of Chief Justice Burger and Associate Justice Blackmun illustrate the impact President Nixon has had in his campaign to balance and redirect the court. Lewis Powell, I am sure, will make further contributions of significant value to the Court's work of interpreting the Constitution and laws in such a way as to preserve the fullest measure of freedom for all citizens without sacrificing the rights of the majority of peaceful, law-abiding and conscientious Americans.

The number of individuals who have spoken in behalf of Lewis Powell's nomination has been impressive. But even more impressive is his own record which provides persuasive and extremely encouraging evidence that he is ideally suited for service on the Supreme Court. It is a pleasure to support his nomination, and I urge the Senate to confirm the nomination so he may, as soon as possible, assume his share of the Court's heavy work load and begin what will quickly be recognized as an outstanding judicial career.