



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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STATEMENT BY SENATOR BOB DOLE

## PASSAGE OF THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

This is a significant day for America. After more than a half century Congress has approved the Constitutional corollary of the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments which guarantee equality of rights to all citizens regardless of race, and it has brought to full force the spirit of the 19th Amendment which extended universal suffrage to all citizens regardless of sex. Congress has passed the Equal Rights Amendment proclaiming that women are full and equal citizens of this great Nation.

I note this day with a particular sense of its historic importance for the state of Kansas and the Republican Party. I do so because the Equal Rights Amendment was first proposed in Congress by Charles Curtis, a great American who was elected Vice President under President Herbert Hoover. He was also a great Kansan, who devoted virtually his entire adult life to public service through six terms in the House of Representatives and four terms in the Senate. And he was a great Republican, who in addition to his national offices was Majority Leader of his party in the Senate and a widely respected and admired Republican leader on the national level.

The language of Senator Curtis' Amendment was as follows:

"Men and Women shall have the equal rights throughout the United States and every place subject to its jurisdiction. Congress shall have the power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

(MORE)

page -2 Dole Equal Rights Statement

When Senator Curtis introduced the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923, he drew attention, both for Kansans and Republicans, to a solid and forth-right position in the cause of women's rights. This position has been maintained and built upon throughout the years, and today I know the Republican Party and the people of Kansas appreciate the significance of having Senator Curtis' initiative fulfilled.

But more than being merely a matter of state of party pride, passage of the Equal Rights Amendment should be a source of strong national satisfaction in seeing a major step toward the extinction of a fundamental and far-reaching shortcoming in our legal and social systems. This step has been long in coming, but it has at last been taken.

Now, we must look ahead. The job has been passed to the legislatures of the states. I am hopeful they will respond as they did last year when the Amendment providing for the 18-year-old vote was ratified with the utmost dispatch and regard for the importance of its contents.

More work is in store, but today's action establishes a milestone in the history of women's rights and the rights of the individual. Congressional approval has been secured, and women and men --Americans-- can now look ahead to the day when the Equal Rights Amendment will be known by another and more significant name, the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution.