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Joe Reppert—Press Secretary

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ABILENE, KANSAS -- The following are excerpts of remarks made by Senator Bob Dole in today's National Salute to Small Business at the Eisenhower Center in Abilene:

"Small Business is free enterprise in its purest sense. It is the fundamental to the American concept of individuality. It remains the doorway for the young who are just starting out, for the minorities who want their share in the economic mainstream, for the average citizen who is looking of the opportunity to do his own thing."

Dole spoke at ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of President Eisenhower's signing of the law establishing the Small Business Administration.

"All big business was once small," Dole said, "and today small business continues to be the source of our giants of tomorrow. The men and women who are among today's small entrepreneurs represent the dynamics of our national growth, pushing up from the bottom, inventing new products, giving better services, competing in the market place, renewing our resources."

"Small businesses," Dole said, "are gaining ground each year. Despite the long odds again-t making a go of it -- there is a net increase of 100,000 small businesses each year. There are eight million small businesses in the United States today, and that is two million more than when SBA began 20 years ago." It's hard to quarrel with that kind of growth."