

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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MUSKIE 'A MAN OF UNQUESTIONED INTEGRITY,' DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.), speaking in favor of President Carter's selection of Edmund Muskie as secretary of state, today called Muskie "a man of unquestioned integrity."

In a statement on the Senate floor, Dole said, "I congratulate the senator from Maine and commend the wisdom that selected this man who has been such a distinguished member of this chamber for many, many years. Ed Muskie has compiled a record of public service, and service in the public interest, that is equalled by few others.

"His tenure as chairman of the Budget Committee is a fine example of his ability and dedication to principles that override political expediency. He is a man of unquestioned integrity. Although, he and the senator from Kansas sit on opposite sides of the aisle, and have been on opposite sides of many issues and political philosophies, never have I questioned his sincerity of purpose nor lost my respect for his talent and capability.

"The State Department acquires in its new secretary an acclaimed statesman and politician, who will give that cabinet post new respect and forcefulness in the halls of Congress and among the foreign ministries overseas, while his astute knowledge and experience will bring an informed and cohesive perspective to White House foreign policy decision-making. In these troubled and dangerous times, when America appears weak, befuddled or beset on all sides on the world scene, it is the heartfelt and bipartisan wish of the senator from Kansas -- and I am sure by all members of this body -- that Secretary Muskie be eminently successful in his new role."

The Senate approved the Muskie appointment today by a vote of 94-2.