

News from Senator

BOB DOLE

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WASHINGTON -- The following is a statement made by Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today:

"It was my great honor and privilege to serve as a delegate and subcommittee chairman of the Platform Committee at the 32nd Republican National Convention, held in Detroit, Michigan.

"I want to take this opportunity to commend the people of Detroit and of the state of Michigan for their hospitality and courteous manner during the two-week convention period.

"It was the unanimous opinion of the Kansas delegation, and, indeed, of all delegates with whom we spoke, that Detroit had made an extraordinary and highly successful attempt to accomodate delegates, alternates, the press and others. The friendliness of the populace was evident from the first day and remained to the final session. Taxi drivers, law enforcement personnel, hotel workers, restaurant employees, and the man and woman on the street -- all were very cheerful and helpful.

"I believe special note should be made of the efforts of Mayor Coleman Young, who remained firm in his resolve to keep the city operating under difficult circumstances. His personal role in mediating a potentially crippling strike was crucial to its being settled without disruption to the proceedings. I met personally with Mayor Young while at the convention, and I can say that I was extremely impressed with him, both as a man and as a leader of a great city.

"I would also like to commend Governor William Milliken for his role in making the convention a success. He was a fine host, and made his fellow Republicans feel right at home.

"We came to Detroit at a difficult time in the city's history. Unemployment is high due to a deep depression in the auto industry and the city's renaissance has been put on hold pending a return to sane interest rates and a more stable economic situation. Certainly no one could have blamed the people of Detroit had they been preoccupied with their own troubles. But they were not so preoccupied.

"I was among those who believed that holding our national convention in Detroit would serve our party well, indicating our support for urban America, for working people and for minorities.

"I also believed the city of Detroit could host such a convention in a professional manner.

"I am pleased to report that I was correct on all counts. The people of Detroit and of the great state of Michigan are to be commended on hosting one of the finest political conventions in history. On behalf of my Kansas delegation and all Republicans, I want to say 'Thank-you Detroit.'"