

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1980

CONTACT: BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8953

REPUBLICANS HAVE COMMITMENT TO FAIR HOUSING BILL NEXT YEAR

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today made this statement following the cloture vote on fair housing:

"For the second time in almost a week the Senate has considered invoking cloture on the filibuster that has prevented a vote by the Senate on the Fair Housing Amendments Act. As a co-sponsor of this legislation, I have been concerned about this delay in the enactment of legislation that would strengthen the weaknesses that exist in our current housing law," Dole said.

"On Friday, December 5, the Senate voted to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the Fair Housing Act. The Senator from Kansas voted for cloture because it was his belief that the differences that existed among the proponents and the opponents of this legislation could be worked out. After negotiating with members of both groups, night and day, it became apparent that a compromise that would be satisfactory to both parties could not be agreed upon. Faced with this reality, the Senator from Kansas voted against invoking cloture. By unanimous consent, the Senate had agreed that if today's cloture vote failed the Fair Housing Amendments Act would be pulled from consideration by this body," said Dole.

Fair Scheduling

"The question of fair housing is not a matter that is new to the Senate. In 1968 the Civil Rights Act was enacted which outlawed discrimination in housing on account of race, color, religion, national origin, and sex. This law established, as a national policy that a black person, for example, who had the money could not legally be denied the purchase or rental of a selected dwelling. Unfortunately this act provided for inadequate enforcement. The need for strengthening the enforcement of this act has been set forth over the past ten years in hearings begun by the Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights in the 92nd Congress and in each Congress through the 96th.

"For ten years this issue of strengthening this nation's fair housing law has been before this body, and with less than ten days to go until the scheduled date of adjournment of this Congress, this matter was brought up on the floor of the Senate for debate. This bill was reported by the Senate Judiciary Committee in August. The Senate did not have to wait until the eleventh hour to consider such an important piece of civil rights legislation. The Senate should debate the real issue here, which is not fair housing but rather fair scheduling!" Dole said.

Commitment to Fair Housing

"The groups that would have benefited most from this legislation, the women, the blacks, the handicapped, should not be disheartened by today's vote. The Majority leader-elect has stated his commitment to having the Senate consider legislation that would strengthen the Fair Housing Act, next year. The Senator from Kansas has been and will continue to be committed to working to remedy the deficits that presently exist in this nation's housing laws. No house or apartment door should be closed to any American who is in need of a place to live.

"Housing discrimination persists despite current law. It is incumbent upon us to provide an effective weapon in the struggle for equal housing opportunity. The Senator from Kansas looks forward to the consideration and enactment of legislation that goes beyond a mere statement of principles on fair housing and creates an effective and meaningful enforcement system," said Dole.