

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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PRESIDENT'S COMMISSION ON DRUNK DRIVING HOLDS FIRST MEETING--DOLE A MEMBER

WASHINGTON -- A 30-member commission selected by President Reagan to deal with the increasing menace of drunk drivers on America's highways held its first meeting today. Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) is one of four Congressional appointees on the special commission.

"Drunk drivers can no longer be allowed to continue their highway mayhem. I believe the American public is fed up with these irresponsible and reckless people behind the wheel. As a member of the President's commission, and as Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Courts, I have listened to some gruesome and frightening testimony on the tragic impact of drunk drivers. 26,000 Americans lose their lives each year to the drunk driver, and more than three-quarters of a million Americans suffer crippling and serious injuries every year in drunk driving accidents. Clearly, we must take decisive action to reduce these horrifying statistics. The President recognizes the need for such action, and I am proud to serve on the drunk driving commission," Dole said.

The President's commission includes business executives, congressmen, a mayor, a governor, civic leaders, actor Dick Van Patten and columnist Ann Landers. According to Dole, the 30-member commission will focus on four major steps in the fight against drunk driving: 1) heighten public awareness about the problem; 2) persuade the states to attack the drunk driving problem in an organized and systematic manner; 3) encourage states to use the latest methods and techniques to combat drinking and driving; and 4) generate public support for increased enforcement of DWI laws. The commission will have a one-year tenure.

"Motor vehicle accidents are the major cause of death for Americans under 35 -- over half of these deaths are caused by drunk drivers. We can no longer afford to be indifferent about this senseless tragedy. I urge Kansans and other Americans to do all they can to battle the drunk driving menace," Dole said.