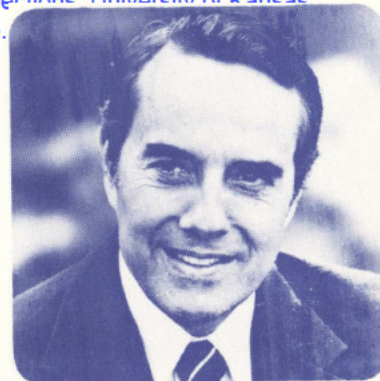


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, JUNE 29, 1982

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DOLE COMPROMISE VOTING RIGHTS ACT SIGNED BY PRESIDENT REAGAN

WASHINGTON -- In a White House signing ceremony today President Reagan put his signature on the Voting Rights Extension Act, a landmark civil rights bill that sailed through Congress with the help of a skillful compromise crafted by Kansas Senator Bob Dole.

Flanked by Dole, top civil rights leaders and other key lawmakers, President Reagan signed the measure that will extend the enforcement provisions of the 1965 Voting Rights Act for another 25 years.

"Today's signing symbolizes this nation's commitment to the full protection of voting rights for every American. This bill continues the guarantees of the 1965 Act and reaffirms the significant gains we have made since the passage of the original legislation," Dole said.

As a key member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, Dole authored the compromise that broke a Committee stalemate threatening to block passage of the bill. The Dole compromise sets up an overall "results test" to determine if election laws or voting procedures are in violation of federal law. The Act also extends enforcement provisions for 25 years, and, beginning in 1984, permits jurisdictions that must now obtain Justice Department approval for any changes in election laws to bail-out of that requirement if they can prove a clean voting rights record for the previous 10 years.

"The overwhelming bipartisan support which this legislation has received reaffirms that voting rights and civil rights involve issues which transcend party lines," Dole said after the signing. "The combined efforts of Democrats and Republicans in both Houses, coupled with the President's support, made today's historic event possible."

"All citizens, regardless of race or color, will continue to have an equal opportunity to participate in our political processes. By strengthening the protections of the right to vote, this legislation strengthens the very foundations upon which our representative form of government is based. It should be embraced and applauded by all," Dole said.