

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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"MEXICAN ADOPTION SCAM":
DOLE CALLS ON JUSTICE DEPARTMENT TO COMPLETE INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON -- In a letter to Attorney General William French Smith, Kansas Senator Bob Dole today called on the Justice Department to complete its investigation into the "Mexican Adoption Scam." Legislation introduced by Senator Dole has been pending in the Senate Judiciary Committee since a March 16 hearing, awaiting Justice Department findings.

"I hope that the various investigating agencies will cooperate fully so that this matter can finally be resolved," said Dole.

Following is the text of Senator Dole's letter:

Dear Mr. Attorney General:

On March 16th the Senate Subcommittee on Courts held a hearing reviewing a widespread incident of adoption fraud. Witnesses described a shocking situation in which children from Mexico were promised, thousands of dollars paid and couples left without a child or the return of their money. In response to the situation, nine Senators and myself introduced S. 2299, the Anti-Fraudulent Adoption Practices Act. At the request of the Department of Justice, the legislation has been held back pending completion of the investigation and prosecution of those responsible for the so-called "Mexican Adoption Scam."

I am well aware that cases of any nature take time and complex ones such as adoption fraud can take a very long time. However, I would request that, as far as possible, you keep me informed of the status of the case. At some point in either this or the next Congress, the sponsors of S. 2299 will need to make an informed decision as to what, if any, changes are needed in our criminal code to ensure that scams such as the one that is now being investigated can be stopped earlier and that the persons responsible receive appropriate penalties.

At our hearing in March, Deputy Assistant Attorney General John C. Keeney provided very useful testimony. In that testimony, Mr. Keeney called the F.B.I.'s investigation of the adoption scam a "priority case." While the media attention has faded, I ask that the case retain its "priority" status and that the Department complete as quickly as is feasible its investigation and proceed with prosecution if warranted.

I appreciate the efforts of yourself and the many able employees of your Department involved with this matter. It is my sincere hope that our joint efforts will not only stop this particular scam but also reduce the potential for adoption abuse in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature of Bob Dole in dark ink, written over the word "Sincerely,".

BOB DOLE
United States Senate