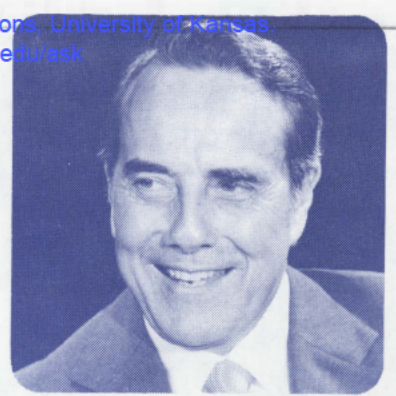


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DOLE CALLS FOR EXPLANATION OF MONDALE-FERRARO CAMPAIGN

APPOINTMENT FOR CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSIONER

WASHINGTON — Senator Bob Dole (R. - KS) today called on Democratic Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro to explain to Congress why they have appointed a U.S. Civil Rights Commissioner to a high-level political campaign post. It was announced yesterday that Civil Rights Commissioner Blandina Cardenas would join the staff as Rep. Ferraro's political coordinator.

"For many months, Democrats have repeatedly insisted on the need for the Civil rights Commission to be independent of political influence," said Dole. "Walter Mondale himself said just days ago that the Commission should be 'totally dedicated to an independent, dispassionate analysis of civil rights.'"

"The Democrats are right. The U.S. Civil Rights Commission must and should be independent of political influence. But today it is those same Democrats who are working hardest to undermine the Commission's independence," said Dole.

"Walter Mondale himself has shown a complete disregard for the Commission's non-political role through his on-again, off-again promise to fire everyone President Reagan appointed, and hire everyone he replaced. He says this with little concern for the law's establishment of fixed terms for Commission Appointees — a provision specifically designed to minimize political influence. Mondale apparently wants an independent Civil Rights Commission — but only if its views reflect those of Mr. Mondale."

"Now comes yet another example of the Mondale camp's total disregard for a Civil Rights Commission that is independent of political influence," said Dole.

"One of the Commissioners, at the behest of Rep. Ferraro, has been given an explicitly political staff role in the Mondale-Ferraro campaign. How can Ms. Ramirez serve in such a high legal position on the Mondale-Ferraro campaign and continue to serve on a Commission that is supposed to be free of political influence? She has declared herself not only a philosophical opponent to the present Administration, but a political opponent as well. And if Rep. Ferraro becomes Vice President next January, there is no way Ms. Ramirez can exercise effective independence from the White House."

"Mr. Mondale and Rep. Ferraro should be asked how they can make such an appointment when they have protested so piously about previously alleged intrusions into the Commission's independence. Those who set high moral standards for political behavior should realize that they too, must abide by the same standards. And they also owe an explanation to the U.S. Congress, which last year reauthorized the Civil Rights Commission, for attempting to undermine the political independence of the Commission that they themselves agree is so essential," Dole concluded.