

BOB DOLE



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EDUCATION FAIRNESS

DOLE URGES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RE-EXAMINE ADMISSION PREFERENCES FOR ALUMNI CHILDREN: "AMERICAN EDUCATION DOESN'T NEED CASTE SYSTEM" -- LETTER TO LAMAR ALEXANDER

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS) TODAY URGED THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO RE-EXAMINE ITS APPARENT SUPPORT FOR SO-CALLED LEGACY PREFERENCES, ADMISSIONS ADVANTAGES ENJOYED SOLELY BY CHILDREN OF ALUMNI.

IN A LETTER DATED DECEMBER 18, 1990, TO SECRETARY OF EDUCATION--DESIGNATE LAMAR ALEXANDER, DOLE SAID LEGACY PREFERENCES BY PRIVATE UNIVERSITIES THAT RECEIVE FEDERAL FUNDS BENEFIT UPPER INCOME STUDENTS AND ARE UNFAIR TO QUALIFIED STUDENTS FROM LESS CONNECTED OR LESS WEALTHY FAMILIES.

"NOW IS THE TIME TO TAKE THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP ON THE FAIRNESS FRONT. THE LAST THING WE NEED IN AMERICAN EDUCATION IS A CASTE SYSTEM. IF WE ARE SERIOUS ABOUT A NATIONAL RE-EXAMINATION OF PREFERENTIAL POLICIES IN EMPLOYMENT AND EDUCATION, THEN WE HAVE AN OBLIGATION TO BE BOTH FAIR AND CONSISTENT IN OUR APPROACH," DOLE SAID.

"LET'S FACE IT, EQUAL OPPORTUNITY MEANS JUST THAT -- EQUAL ADMISSIONS OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL, NOT JUST A FEW. THESE ALUMNI PERKS HAVE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING TO DO WITH AN INDIVIDUAL'S QUALIFICATIONS OR MERIT."

IN A LETTER TO DEREK BOK, PRESIDENT OF HARVARD UNIVERSITY, DATED OCTOBER 4, 1990, THE ACTING REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE EDUCATION DEPARTMENT'S REGION I CONCLUDED THAT THE LEGACY PREFERENCE DID NOT VIOLATE TITLE VI OF THE CIVIL RIGHTS ACT OF 1964, EVEN THOUGH THIS PREFERENCE HAS THE EFFECT OF EXCLUDING MORE QUALIFIED APPLICANTS.

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