

Bob Dole



NEWS

U . S . SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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**CONTACT: WALT RIKER (DOLE)
(202) 224-5358
MISSI TESSIER (MICHEL)
(202) 225-0600**

CLINTON ECONOMIC CONFERENCE

REPUBLICAN LEADERS URGE GAVEL-TO-GAVEL BROADCASTERS TO PROVIDE EQUAL TREATMENT TO GOP

WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole (R-Kansas) and House Republican Leader Bob Michel (R-Illinois) have written to Cable News Network, C-SPAN and National Public Radio requesting "the same kind of respect, attention and comprehensive coverage" whenever Republicans hold events contributing to the national dialogue.

In letters to the chief news executives of the three networks which provided up to 17 hours of "live" gavel-to-gavel coverage of the Clinton/Gore conference in Little Rock, Senator Dole and Rep. Michel declared that "no political party has a monopoly on proposals to confront our nation's challenges," and that "no political party's events should have a monopoly on the nation's airwaves."

The text of the letter to CNN & C-SPAN follows. A similar letter was sent to NPR.

We watched portions of your "live" coverage of the December 14-15 Clinton/Gore event in Little Rock. Your network devoted as many as seventeen hours of live coverage to the two-day event, a staggering commitment of broadcasting time that rivals almost nothing in recent memory, especially given the fact that the event was paid for by the Democratic National Committee. This detail, incidentally, was rarely, if ever, noted on the screen, even when Democrat-supplied graphics were displayed.

The fact remains that no political party has a monopoly on proposals to confront our nation's challenges. Furthermore, we are certain that you would agree that no political party's events should have a monopoly on the nation's airwaves.

While you are not required by law to do so, it is our hope that in the interests of journalistic balance, fairness and integrity, the Republican party can command the same kind of respect, attention and comprehensive coverage for our own issue-based events in the future.

We look forward to working with you as Republicans contribute to the national dialogue in the months and years ahead.

Sincerely,

Bob Dole

Bob Dole
Senate Republican Leader

Bob Michel

Bob Michel
House Republican Leader