WASHINGTON -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today made the following statement regarding Supreme Court Justice Byron White's decision to retire from the Court:

With Justice White's departure, President Clinton will now have an opportunity to prove that he really is a "new Democrat."

If the President nominates someone who will follow in the common-sense tradition of Justice White, he will be doing the nation a great service. But if the President nominates a "litmus-test liberal," all bets will be off.

The American people want a Supreme Court Justice who will uphold the Constitution, not try to rewrite it. It would be a big mistake to nominate a liberal activist who is pushing an agenda that is way out of the mainstream.

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