

**Bob Dole**



**NEWS**

**U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE MAJORITY LEADER**

*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*  
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## **ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY**

### **STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE ON** **INDUSTRY PLANS FOR VOLUNTARY TELEVISION RATINGS SYSTEM**

**WASHINGTON --** Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today made the following statement regarding tomorrow's meetings involving entertainment industry leaders, President Clinton, and Republican Congressional leaders:

It has been nearly nine months since I made a speech in Hollywood suggesting that our entertainment industry has a responsibility to look beyond the bottom line and to not pollute our culture and our children.

That speech ignited a national discussion -- a discussion which has continued to this day.

This discussion will take what I hope will be an important step tomorrow, when a delegation of entertainment industry leaders will meet with the Congressional Republican leadership here at the Capitol, and then with President Clinton at the White House.

It is reported that the industry leaders will use these meetings to inform us of their decision to voluntarily create a rating system for television programs.

I hope these reports are true, and that the meetings are not just publicity stunts for all involved.

While previous commitments will prevent me from attending tomorrow's meeting, I did want to take a moment to add a few thoughts to the discussion.

#### **Voluntary Rating System**

First, I want to congratulate the entertainment industry leaders for their decision. Every parent knows that some television programming goes over the line--way over the line--of decency.

And I believe a voluntary rating system, if honestly implemented, will help parents in making informed decisions about what programs their children should and should not watch.

#### **Family-Friendly Programming**

Second, let me urge the entertainment industry not to spend too much time patting themselves on the back.

It is one thing to produce programs that children shouldn't watch, and to inform parents of the content of those programs.

But it's another thing entirely to produce programs that parents are proud to let their children watch. That is an important distinction I hope Hollywood understands, and one they can respond to only by producing quality, family-friendly programming.

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