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NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, February 29, 1996 Contact: Clarkson Hine

(202) 224-5358

TV RATINGS SYSTEM

STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE

COLUMBIA, SC -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding the entertainment industry's decision to develop a voluntary ratings system for television programs:

"The entertainment industry's decision to develop a voluntary ratings system is proof that the voices of parents and other concerned Americans are being heard. This is welcome news, as far as it goes, to those of us who have been consistently challenging Hollywood to do more to clean up its act. The focus of this effort is where it should be -- on good corporate citizenship, not government censorship.

"But the entertainment industry will not gain the confidence of parents if it believes that warning viewers about program content is a substitute for voluntarily producing more familyfriendly programming that is suitable for children.

"I will continue to speak out for the future of our children and challenge Hollywood to prove that courage and conscience are alive in an industry that too often puts profit ahead of common decency. We welcome President Clinton to this important national dialogue."