



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHILD PORNOGRAPHY LAWS

NEWS STORY RAISES SERIOUS QUESTIONS ABOUT FEDERAL ENFORCEMENT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY LAWS: DOLE SEEKS ANSWERS FROM ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO

WASHINGTON -- The following is the text of a letter sent today by Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole to Attorney General Janet Reno:

Dear Attorney General Reno:

Friday night, the ABC News show "20/20" ran a shocking story suggesting that Janet Napolitano, the United States Attorney in Phoenix, Arizona, refused to cooperate with the U.S. Postal Inspection Service in "Project Special Delivery," a two-year undercover investigation to combat vicious child pornographers.

More specifically, the "20/20" segment suggests that Ms. Napolitano may have refused to authorize seeking a search warrant for the home of a man who had ordered graphic child pornography from undercover U.S. Postal inspectors. It appears that this refusal may have been based on Ms. Napolitano's "philosophical" opposition to the "reverse sting," a law enforcement technique that is sometimes used to catch secretive criminals like child pornographers and terrorists. According to the "20/20" segment, officials in the U.S. Attorney's office in Phoenix may have also refused to authorize seeking a search warrant because they believed that "Project Special Delivery" improperly targeted gay men.

Needless to say, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service had good cause for concern. When local law enforcement authorities subsequently obtained a warrant and searched the Phoenix man's home, they found a large amount of child pornography. Apparently, the man has also admitted to engaging in sexual acts with underage boys dozens and dozens of times. Some of these boys are reportedly as young as 10 years old.

(more)

Earlier this week, Congress passed "Megan's Law," a bill designed to protect our children from sexual predators who may be living in their local communities. It would be highly disturbing, to say the least, if our top federal law enforcement officials are not aggressively enforcing the federal child pornography laws at the very same time that Congress is attempting to strengthen these laws.

Attorney General Reno, I would appreciate hearing your views on the "20/20" segment. Do the decisions of the U.S. Attorney in Phoenix reflect the policies and priorities of the Justice Department and the Clinton Administration? If so, I cannot express my disagreement more strongly.

I would appreciate a prompt response to this inquiry. I have attached a copy of a partial "20/20" transcript for your review. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

BOB DOLE
Senate Majority Leader