

NEWS RELEASE!

Bob Dole. President.

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DOLE TAKES EXCEPTION TO WEICKER REMARK, SAYS KENNEDY CAN BE BEATEN

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today took exception to remarks made by Connecticut Republican Lowell Weicker predicting disaster for the GOP should Edward Kennedy be nominated by the Democrats for the presidency in 1980.

"I simply don't agree that a Kennedy candidacy would necessarily lead to a Kennedy presidency," said Dole. "Kennedy can be beaten," he added.

According to Dole, "There is no question that a Kennedy candidacy would alter the dynamics of the Republican race, however. It is my belief that the party will be looking for a candidate with a solid record in Washington-- a person who can go head-to-head with Kennedy on the issues."

Dole added, "Kennedy can be beaten on the issues. He is an attractive personality for a great many people in this country, but his programs and proposals are out of step with the times. It is my contention-- and it would be my campaign theme-- that a Kennedy Administration would be a disaster for the American economy and would signal the end to the American dream. His emphasis on federal intervention, regulation, and the tremendous fiscal outlays necessary to prop up such a system, runs counter to the direction most Americans have indicated, both in recent elections and polls, they wish to move as we head into the 1980's."

Dole added, "It is ironic that Senator Kennedy has said he will challenge the President should the economy fail to respond in the next few months. With all due respect to Senator Kennedy, I would have to say that his economic programs will be precisely the area where he'll be vulnerable to a Republican challenger. Quite frankly, this nation cannot afford a Kennedy presidency-- all you have to do is tote up the cost of his health proposals, his welfare proposals, and his many other proposals," said Dole.

"I believe the Republicans stand a good chance of winning the White House in 1980, should Senator Kennedy be the Democratic nominee. All we need to do is nominate the right candidate, and go after Kennedy on the issues."

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