

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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SENATOR DOLE REMEMBERS KENNEDY

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today released the following statement from his Washington office:

Twenty years ago, I was the Congressman from Kansas' "Big First" District. I well remember the despair of the people of my state on that dark day in 1963.

The frustration was strong, and there was clearly nothing anyone could do to change the horrible facts. And, so those of us in Congress took to the Floor in an effort to express our feelings, and those of our constituents.

What I said then, I believe today:

Mr. Speaker, our late President John F. Kennedy was a politician in the finest sense. Politics was a profession of endless fascination and highest importance to him. He laid careful plans for winning -- and serving in -- the Presidency, a position so trying that scholars have said, "No man is good enough to be President, but someone has to be."

We live in a country -- in a world -- of enormous complexity. The strength of a democracy is in its enlightened electorate and the complexity of modern life makes this ideal very difficult to achieve. During such a time, the professional politician, whether you agree or disagree with what he always says or does, is important. President Kennedy was such a person. His knowledge, his brilliant mind, his continuous study of politics, were of great importance and while many have these qualities, few have all the ingredients necessary.

His feeling of identification with people, his great interest and fondness for great crowds of humanity, his tolerance of the differences of human beings, was the wonder of John Kennedy.

What is done is tragically history and as the Nation mourns and all hearts go out to Mrs. Kennedy, the children and all members of the Kennedy family, little can be said but let us recall the statement of Daniel Webster, carved in granite above the center door of the House of Representatives Press Gallery. It is a challenge to all now as it must have been to then Congressman John F. Kennedy when he first reflected upon it:

Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up its institutions, promote all its great interests and see whether we also in our day and generation, may not perform something worthy to be remembered.