

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE HELPS KICK-OFF KING HOLIDAY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-Ks.) today joined Coretta Scott King and Senator Edward Kennedy (D-Mass.) in kicking off activities of the Martin Luther King Holiday Commission. The following is the text of Senator Dole's statement:

FROM HER BIRTH IN THE FURNACE OF REVOLUTION, AMERICA WAS DESIGNED AS AN EXERCISE IN APPLIED IDEALS -- THE IDEALS OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND EQUALITY OF ALL PEOPLE UNDER THE LAW," DOLE SAID. THANKS TO DR. KING, AMERICA RENEWED HER ALLIANCE WITH THOSE IDEALS. SHE WROTE NEW LAWS TO STRIKE DOWN OLD BARRIERS; SHE BUILT BRIDGES IN PLACE OF WALLS. SHE INVITED BLACK MEN AND WOMEN INTO THE MAINSTREAM OF AMERICAN SOCIETY -- AND IN DOING SO, OPENED THE WAY FOR OTHER MINORITIES, WOMEN, AND THE DISABLED WHO FOUND THEIR OWN VOICE IN THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

WHEN I MANAGED THE KING HOLIDAY LEGISLATION ON THE SENATE FLOOR, SOME TOLD ME THAT THE BILL WOULD COST TOO MUCH -- BUT THEY FORGOT THE COST OF CENTURIES OF SLAVERY FOLLOWED BY MORE THAN A CENTURY OF ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND POLITICAL EXCLUSION. SOME SAID DR. KING WAS TOO CONTROVERSIAL -- BUT THEY FORGOT GEORGE WASHINGTON HIMSELF WAS CALLED A TYRANT DURING HIS SECOND TERM IN OFFICE."

IN MY OPINION, WE CAN ALL PROFIT FROM A DAY OF NATIONAL REFLECTION ON THE FAITH THAT BINDS TOGETHER A DIVERSE PEOPLE. AS A NATION, WE HAVE CHOSEN TO CELEBRATE DR. KING'S BIRTHDAY BECAUSE HIS WORK -- WHICH IN REALITY MUST BE OUR WORK -- REMAINS UNFINISHED. A DREAM HAS YET TO BE REALIZED," DOLE CONCLUDED. .

THE PURSUIT OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IS A DRAMA WITHOUT INTERMISSION. ITS CAST IS PROUDLY NON-PARTISAN. IN ACHIEVING ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL EMANCIPATION, REPUBLICANS HAVE CONTRIBUTED MUCH, NOT LEAST OF ALL OUR VOTES WHEN CRUCIAL BILLS HAVE COME BEFORE THE CONGRESS. AND I TAKE SOME PRIDE IN THE FACT THAT AFTER 15 YEARS, WE WERE FINALLY ABLE TO PASS THE KING HOLIDAY BILL WHEN THE SENATE WAS UNDER REPUBLICAN CONTROL.

FOR THERE IS NOTHING PARTISAN ABOUT JUSTICE. IT IS AS CONSERVATIVE AS THE CONSTITUTION, AS LIBERAL AS LINCOLN, AS RADICAL AS JEFFERSON'S SWEEPING ASSERTION THAT ALL OF GOD'S CREATION IS EQUAL IN HIS EYES. SO I HOPE WE WILL ALL JOIN TOGETHER ON JANUARY 20 AND PAY TRIBUTE TO THIS MAN OF GOD AND AUTHENTIC AMERICAN HERO. AND BY DOING SO, WE WILL SHOW THE WORLD THAT WHILE A MAN MAY HAVE DIED IN MEMPHIS, HIS MESSAGE LIVES ON.