

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JANUARY 26, 1989

CONTACT: SARA BELDEN  
(202) 224-6521

DOLE INTRODUCES RESOLUTION TO CAPTION SENATE PROCEEDINGS;  
WANTS EVERYONE TO SHARE IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS

Washington, D.C. -- Showing his continued support for the rights of people with hearing impairments, Senator Bob Dole (R-Ks) introduced a resolution that requires closed-captioning of televised Senate floor proceedings. The following is his statement:

MR. PRESIDENT, TODAY I AM INTRODUCING A RESOLUTION WHICH WILL ENABLE MILLIONS OF AMERICANS WITH HEARING IMPAIRMENTS TO TUNE IN TO THEIR DEMOCRACY BY REQUIRING CLOSED-CAPTIONED BROADCASTING OF SENATE FLOOR PROCEEDINGS. I AM VERY PLEASED TO HAVE THE MAJORITY LEADER JOIN ME IN INTRODUCING THIS RESOLUTION, AS WELL AS SENATORS MCCAIN, HARKIN, WILSON, LEAHY, DURENBERGER, DANFORTH, MURKOWSKI, BOSCHWITZ, HATCH, AND JEFFORDS. THE PROPOSAL IS IDENTICAL TO ONE I SPONSORED LAST YEAR WITH SEVERAL OF MY COLLEAGUES WHO ARE JOINING ME TODAY.

CLOSED-CAPTIONED BROADCASTING ALLOWS THE AUDIO PORTION OF A PROGRAM TO BE DISPLAYED IN PRINTED FORM ON THE TELEVISION SCREEN. THE CAPTIONS ARE ONLY RECEIVED IF A PERSON HAS A SPECIAL DECODING DEVICE ATTACHED TO A TELEVISION SET.

THERE IS NO TECHNOLOGICAL REASON WHY CAPTIONING CANNOT BE USED TO EXPAND THE VIEWING AUDIENCE OF THE SENATE TO INCLUDE OUR DEAF AND HEARING-IMPAIRED CITIZENS. REAL-TIME, INSTANTANEOUS CAPTIONING HAS BEEN AVAILABLE SINCE 1982 AND IS NOW USED IN BROADCASTS OF PRESIDENTIAL SPEECHES AND PRESS CONFERENCES, NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS, AND EVEN SOME SENATE COMMITTEE HEARINGS. THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ALSO RECENTLY APPROVED A PROPOSAL TO REQUIRE CAPTIONING OF ITS TELEVISED PROCEEDINGS.

THERE WOULD OF COURSE BE SOME COST INVOLVED IN PROVIDING THIS SERVICE FOR THE SENATE, BUT I BELIEVE IT IS A SMALL PRICE TO PAY TO MAKE THIS BODY ACCESSIBLE TO ALL AMERICANS.