

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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Washington -- Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement after President Clinton's dismissal of FBI Director William Sessions:

Today's dismissal of FBI Director William Sessions should concern every American who values the political independence of our nation's top law enforcement agencies.

For the first time in history, an FBI Director has been removed by a President prior to the completion of the Director's 10-year term. The reason given for the dismissal was also novel in the annals of FBI history--an alleged "deficiency in judgment."

Now, Judge Sessions may have shown some poor judgment along the way, and he may be guilty of a few bad decisions. But the independence of the FBI suffers when its Director can be removed simply by alleging "deficiency in judgment." If there is more, the American people have a right to know.

And what about the White House staff implicated in the Travelgate fiasco, where there was some real "deficiency in judgment," including the abuse of the FBI to further White House political aims? If "deficiency in judgment" is enough to remove the FBI Director, what about the Administration officials implicated in Travelgate?

Congress should take a close look at the potentially worrisome precedent that is being set by today's announcement.

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