

Bob Dole



NEWS

U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1993

CONTACT: CLARKSON HINE
(202) 224-5358

TRIBUTE TO DAVID DINKINS

"A PICTURE THAT'S WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS"

We've all heard the old saying that "a picture is worth a thousand words.

Well, there's a photograph on the front page of today's New York Times that says a great deal more than a thousand words.

The picture is of New York City Mayor David Dinkins, and New York City Mayor-Elect Rudy Giuliani laughing together in Mayor Dinkins' office.

First of all, this picture says a great deal about America's political system. There are still some places in the world where those in power refuse to leave office, or where the losers of campaigns are put in jail.

Here in America, however, our campaigns may be hard-fought, but they are conducted in the open, and when someone in office is defeated, they do all they can to ensure a smooth transition.

We saw that last year with President Bush, and we are seeing it now with David Dinkins.

And in the final analysis, the picture says a great deal about the type of person that David Dinkins is.

Let me be clear in saying that I campaigned for Rudy Giuliani, and think he will make an outstanding Mayor.

But my support for him does not lessen the respect that I have for Mayor Dinkins.

Mayor Dinkins can take great pride in the history he made as New York City's first Africa-American mayor, and in the difference he made throughout his public service career.

No matter if you agreed with him or not, there was never any doubt that David Dinkins was a decent man who loved New York City, and who gave it his best in very difficult times.

And the words that Mayor Dinkins spoke in his concession speech, urging his supporters to unite behind the new Mayor, are an eloquent tribute to his legacy.

"You see, my friends," said Mayor Dinkins, "elections come and go, candidates come and go, Mayors come and go, but the life of the city must endure."

I am confident that in the years ahead, David Dinkins will have much to contribute to the life of the city he loves so much, as well as the life of America.

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