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Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans) was the featured speaker at a Republican Lincoln Day ~~fund~~/~~raising~~ dinner in Salt Lake City, Utah. Dole stated, "When the Constitution was adopted some 178 years ago, its authors pledged to defend it with their 'lives, fortunes, and sacred honor.' Should we who have benefited so much from their gift do less?

"Thousands of Americans have given their lives on battlefields around the world and are doing the same today to protect our proud heritage. But now, as Daniel Webster once warned, the Constitution is being attacked in a 'subtler fashion.'

"We are witnessing an erosion of the rock upon which this nation was founded, and I very strongly feel that Congress has lost its coequal place with the other two branches in our scheme of government and that the Supreme Court is confused in interpreting the Constitution with amending the Constitution."

"The power to interpret is the power to ascertain its meaning," Dole continued, "while the power to amend the Constitution is the power to change its meaning."

"The truth is that on many occasions during recent years, the Supreme Court has usurped and exercised the power of the Congress and the States to amend the Constitution while professing to interpret it. For solid examples, we need only to look at the Court's treatment of the Fourteenth Amendment, particularly the 'Equal Protection' and 'Due Process' clauses, for in modern times the Supreme Court under the guise of interpreting the Fourteenth Amendment, particularly these clauses, has proceeded to apply the bulk of the Bill of Rights to state affairs in order to require the states

to conform to federal standards. For specific examples, we can look to the Prayer decisions, the Reapportionment decision, and their interpretation of the Interstate Commerce clause. We also have solid examples of chipping away at America's greatest invention -- Our Constitution -- by the Executive Branch."

Dole concluded by saying, "The question then is, what are we as individuals going to do about keeping our Constitutional freedoms and our Constitutional Republic for ourselves and our posterity? The only possible answer is a personal commitment to freedom, and our own personal commitment to freedom today should be no less intense than those of early day patriots."