

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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ELLIS, Kans., May 16 -- Congressman Bob Dole tonight challenged high school seniors to share the responsibility in standing firm against violence, disorder and militant demonstrations.

Speaking at the Ellis high school graduation, the Kansas Congressman said, "While the misguided few noisily seek sensational headlines, you should quietly take part in a more useful action -- action for education, understanding and real progress."

On the recent disorders at Columbia university, Dole said, "A few students gained control, vandalized buildings and disrupted over 25,000 other students."

"These few," he added, "frustrated and endangered the lives of the rest, hiding behind the very rights they circumvent -- free speech, free assembly, academic freedom and individual liberty."

"In a democracy," Dole said, "we believe in discussion and debate. We believe in the right of dissent and the right of the individual to express himself fully."

"We do not believe," he added, "in anyone's right to coerce another into a belief which he does not conscientiously accept."

(then gave places and dates of other upcoming commencement speeches in Russell, Morrowville, and Solomon)