

STATEMENT BY U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
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"The action taken by President Nixon and Postmaster General Blount to remove postal appointments from politics has the support of most Members of Congress.

"To Republicans eager to select fellow Republicans as Postmasters or Rural Carriers, the announced change in selection procedure will be painful, but they recognize that this historic action by the President could be a first step in improving our rapidly-deteriorating mail service.

"The overriding consideration must be the public interest and improvement of postal service. Republicans who qualify, will still have a competitive opportunity for postal service, as will Democrats who qualify and present postal employees, who in the past have not bothered to take the examinations if they were not of the prevailing political belief.

"The end of political Post Office patronage is long past due. It will be painful to some, but notwithstanding will represent a step forward, however small, in improving mail service. The action further demonstrates President Nixon's determination to go forward, regardless of the fact it may mean stepping on sensitive political toes."