

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. April 14 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today charged that two of the nation's largest newspapers misrepresented Senate reaction to President Nixon's decision to not nominate any more Southern and Appellate Judges for the Supreme Court.

Dole said that both the Saturday, April 11 Washington POST and the City Edition of the New York TIMES failed to give the same coverage to the support the President's statement received as the newspapers gave to its critics.

Dole said it would be refreshing to "see the press print both sides of the news -- for a change."

The Senator's statement follows:

"When I returned from Kansas Sunday I scanned the Saturday issue of the Washington POST.

"There was a two column head which said 'Senators Counter President's Attack.'

"For twelve full inches we were told about the Senators who had questioned the President's motives in deciding not to nominate at this time another Southern Appellate Judge to the Supreme Court. Almost every Senator who spoke against the President was named and quoted. It wasn't until we turned to the continuation of the story that we learned that the President had been defended at all.

"Two defenders were cited by the author of this column. The other five were not mentioned.

"This, frankly, is misrepresenting the facts. The thousands of persons who daily depend on the POST for their information deserve something better. They must believe, after reading the POST, that the Senate overwhelmingly opposed the President's statement. From Mr. Rich's story they have a right to think so. But it isn't so and I stand here today to tell them it isn't so, knowing, of course, this statement is unlikely to make Mr. Rich's next story.

"I call the attention of my colleagues who may not have been present on Friday to the Record of that date. The facts are there. They are not in the POST. Neither are they in the New York TIMES.

"The TIMES went on for 27 inches of type, not counting heads, before it bothered to mention that there was some support for the President in the Senate. Then it was brushed off in one short paragraph. The author of this was John W. Finney.

"But let me hasten to add that the TIMES I refer to is the City Edition which we see here in Washington. The TIMES editors have a habit of running one version in an edition no one in Washington sees, then pointing to it when there is complaint about the version that appears in the Washington edition.

"At any event, we have two of the nation's leading newspapers failing to report what the people have the right to know.

"I have no desire to censor the press, but would like to occasionally see fair and objective reporting of the news."