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STATEMENT BY U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE

MORE KENNEDY RHETORIC

Last night, the junior Senator from Massachusetts presumptuously delivered what he called a state of the union message. Unfortunately, far from being a calm, well-reasoned analysis of the national state, it was the usual cacaphony of mindless negativism about our country.

Senator Kennedy charged that President Nixon has not fulfilled his promise of doing everything possible to ensure equal opportunity for all Americans. That is simply untrue. From 1954 to 1969, only six percent of the schools in the South were peacefully desegregated. In the three years of the Nixon Administration, over 90 percent have been desegregated. From the new Office of Minority Business Enterprise to a toughened federal housing policy, President Nixon's record on civil rights has been second to none.

Something has been missing in the President's approach -- Senator Kennedy is right about that. What is missing is the elegant and empty rhetoric, the unending promises of instant problem-solving, and the bloodshed which accompanied the civil rights battles of the early and mid-Sixties.

President Nixon has not seen his duty as making pledges he could not fulfill. He has seen his duty as fulfilling pledges he has made and the country could keep.

As the figures show, President Nixon's reason has succeeded where his predecessors' rhetoric failed. If this Nation has not yet solved all the problems of its minorities, we have certainly come closer than we did in the eight years preceding this administration. Senator Kennedy, if he is really concerned about bringing equal opportunity to all Americans, should acknowledge that and adopt the policy and approach that President Nixon has made so effective.