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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT

Senator Dole, along with Senator Pearson, contacted leaders of the Kansas State Legislature following passage of the Equal Rights Amendment, March 22, and urged them to take it up for consideration in the state legislatures as soon as possible. As a Constitutional Amendment, it needs ratification by two-thirds of the states in the next seven years.

Immediately after passage of the amendment, Dole made this statement on the Senate floor:

I note this day with particular sense of its historic importance for the state of Kansas ... I do so because the Equal Rights Amendment was first proposed in Congress by Charles Curtis, a great American who was elected Vice President under President Herbert Hoover. He was also a great Kansan, who devoted virtually his entire adult life to public service through six terms in the House of Representatives and four terms in the Senate....

When Senator Curtis introduced the Equal Rights Amendment in 1923, he drew attention, both for Kansans and for his party, to a solid and forth right position in the cause of women's rights....

More work is in store, but today's action establishes a milestone in the history of women's rights and the rights of the individual. Congressional approval has been secured, and women and men -- Americans -- can now look ahead to the day when the Equal Rights Amendment will be known by another and more significant name, the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution.