



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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Joe Reppert—Press Secretary

FOR RELEASE - A.M.'s THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 1972

WASHINGTON, D.C., JUNE 8, 1972 -- Senator Bob Dole today urged the Senate to confirm the nomination of Richard Kleindienst to be Attorney General of the United States.

Dole said he believed President Nixon has made a wise and prudent choice and Kleindienst will be an able successor to John Mitchell.

The Kansas Senator noted that the nomination-confirmation process demands the conscientious and serious attention by both the President and the Senate. Dole said:

"The President, as throughout his Administration, has responded in a manner which demonstrates that he appreciates the importance of the nomination process and which evidences his high regard for the office of Attorney General.

At first it appeared that the Senate examination of Mr. Kleindienst's record and qualifications would be accomplished with all appropriate diligence but with a decent respect for the need to proceed without undue delay.

However, the influence of an irresponsible Washington gossip columnist led to one of the most bizarre circuses of trial by innuendo, smear and irrelevancy ever seen in the annals of government--or sensational journalism.

I will spare my colleagues another dreary recitation of the second round of hearings on Mr. Kleindienst--hearings, I would point out, which were suggested by Mr. Kleindienst in hopes of providing the Senate every opportunity to explore his character, qualifications and record.

But that second series of hearings, rather than attempting to further the Senate's knowledge and understanding of Mr. Kleindienst, was converted into a burlesque which appeared more intent on monopolizing time on the network newscasts and space in the Washington Post than serving and legitimate Senatorial interest."

COMPLETE TEXT OF SENATOR DOLE'S REMARKS ATTACHED:

SENATE FLOOR STATEMENT - A.M., JUNE 8, 1972

FOR RELEASE - A.M.'s, JUNE 8, 1972

SENATE FLOOR STATEMENT BY SENATOR BOB DOLE

SUPPORT FOR RICHARD KLEINDIENST

I have previously stated my intention to vote to confirm the nomination of Richard Kleindienst to be Attorney General of the United States. Today, I rise to repeat my support for this nomination and to urge that the Senate proceed with all appropriate dispatch to give its advice and consent and then move on to the pressing business which requires our consideration.

The nomination and confirmation process is one of the most important interactions between the legislative and executive branches of Government. As part of the series of checks and balances with which the authors of the Constitution sought to strengthen our democratic institutions, its effective operation demands the most conscientious and serious attention of the President and the Senate.

PRESIDENT'S COMMITMENT

The Senator from Kansas believes that in nominating Mr. Kleindienst President Nixon has fulfilled his responsibility for choosing a professionally qualified, personally distinguished individual to be our Nation's chief law enforcement officer. The President approaches each nomination to executive and judicial posts with the utmost seriousness and regard for the importance of these high offices. In doing so he keeps faith with one of the highest commitments of his presidency.

In his campaign and throughout his service in office, the President has repeatedly stressed his determination to improve Government and make it more responsible and responsive to the needs of our citizens. He has initiated numerous reforms directed toward achieving that goal. Foremost among these are revenue sharing and departmental reorganization -- and specific policy changes in existing programs have been made whenever appropriate. But nowhere has his commitment been more widely or effectively demonstrated than in the President's personal efforts to bring the most qualified, highly motivated, and dedicated men and women into Federal public service. These efforts have been pursued at all levels of Government, and they have succeeded to a unique degree in advancing the cause of better Government -- Federal, state and local. Our Government is, after all, by the people, and it can only be as effective and efficient as the individuals who comprise it.

Setting the pace, President Nixon has brought an extraordinarily talented and dedicated group of Cabinet and Sub-cabinet officials to Washington. And these individuals have provided more than 3 1/2 years of outstanding service to America while directing the job of implementing the President's policies. And throughout this period, Richard Kleindienst has been one of the foremost figures in this select group.

RECORD OF LEADERSHIP

Serving as Deputy Attorney General, he has played a major role in helping fulfill one of the President's most urgent campaign commitments -- making an all-out assault on crime in America and securing improvements in the administration of justice, both civil and criminal, throughout the Nation.

Having worked in close cooperation with Attorney General John Mitchell, Richard Kleindienst deserves a large measure of credit for the

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accomplishments of the Department of Justice in strengthening law enforcement and protecting the law-abiding in America over the past 40 months. The record is clear, and it reflects great credit on all who participated in its achievement. For under this dynamic leadership, the Department of Justice has formulated and launched a massive program to improve the means and mechanisms by which our laws are enforced and applied -- not only by the Federal Government but by states and localities as well.

In recognition of the threat posed by crime and the criminal to every level of society the Nation's entire criminal justice system has been scrutinized, and reforms have been pursued through advocacy of improved statutory provisions, modernized judicial machinery, and improved post-conviction procedures and penal practices.

Also in the civil rights field, in areas dealing with the protection of our society from subversion and terrorism, regulation of competition in business, and the management and protection of our natural resources, the Department of Justice has compiled a record of vigorous, fair and diligent labor on behalf of the public interest. It should also be pointed out that the Department's Civil Division was given prime responsibility for enforcement of the President's wage and price freeze and subsequent economic controls.

In all these areas and many others the accomplishments of the Department are numerous and impressive. Of course neither Mr. Mitchell nor Mr. Kleindienst was personally involved in the details of every case or each decision, but the new sense of vigor and direction which they imparted to this important Department of Government reflects only the highest comment on their leadership and President Nixon's foresight in selecting them.

UNIQUELY QUALIFIED

Having been directly involved at the highest policy level of the Department, Richard Kleindienst has gained a background of experience and insight which uniquely qualified him to serve as Attorney General. He fully understands the structure, personnel and goals of the Department, and his service in this position will assure continued dedication to the President's policies and an unbroken commitment to the full, fair and vigorous administration of equal justice under law in these United States.

I believe the President has made a wise and prudent choice. Mr. Kleindienst is superbly qualified, and he will be an able successor to John Mitchell as Attorney General.

THOROUGH INITIAL HEARINGS

I noted earlier that the nomination-confirmation process demands the conscientious and serious attention of both the President and the Senate. The President, as throughout his administration, has responded in a manner which demonstrates that he appreciates the importance of the nomination process and which evidences his high regard for the office of Attorney General.

The Senator from Kansas would have hoped that the response of the Senate had been in the same spirit. At first it appeared that examination of Mr. Kleindienst's record and qualifications would be accomplished with all appropriate diligence but with a decent respect for the need to proceed without undue delay. In fact Mr. Kleindienst's nomination did receive a thorough detailed and adequate hearing before the Committee on the Judiciary. All who wished to come forward and gave testimony. Mr. Kleindienst appeared. A substantial record was made, and the Committee voted to favorably report the nomination to the Senate.

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TRIAL BY INNUENDO

However, the influence of an irresponsible Washington gossip columnist led to one of the most bizarre circuses of trial by innuendo, smear and irrelevancy ever seen in the annals of Government or sensational journalism.

I will spare my colleagues another dreary recitation of the second round of hearings on Mr. Kleindienst -- hearings, I would point out, which were suggested by Mr. Kleindienst in hopes of providing the Senate every opportunity to explore his character, qualifications and record.

But that second series of hearings, rather than attempting to further the Senate's knowledge and understanding of Mr. Kleindienst, was converted into a burlesque which appeared more intent on monopolizing time on the network newscasts and space in the Washington Post than serving any legitimate senatorial interest. Indeed, Mr. Kleindienst was all but forgotten as the so-called investigation strayed to such totally unrelated and self-serving areas as Latin American politics, the Kentucky Derby social scene, and the ultimately unsuccessful efforts of a California city to obtain support for hosting a national political convention.

A POINTLESS CIRCUS

In short it was a circus. And in the end -- many weeks after its muckracker-ringmaster opened the extravaganza -- there was nothing to show for it, except a lengthy transcript, a number of bold but meaningless headlines and absolutely no grounds for questioning the soundness of the original finding that Richard Kleindienst should be confirmed by the Senate as Attorney General of the United States.

Delay, distortion and a growing dullness were the chief products of this protracted exercise in headline fabrication. And while it may have raised some questions in the public's mind about the press' capacity to sustain a false issue, it certainly did not affect Mr. Kleindienst's qualifications nor, I am sure, his desire to continue his outstanding service to America in the Department of Justice.

CIRCUS IS OVER

But, now, at long last, the Senate has Mr. Kleindienst's nomination before it. The Senator from Kansas would hope that the members of this body will recognize that the circus is over. Mr. Kleindienst, his record and his qualifications are easily winnowed from the chaff of sensational publicity, and he stands unmarred by the attacks of those whose charges have made headlines but which have not rung true either in the Senate or with the American people.

After those more than six weeks of endless smear and insinuation, aimed at Richard Kleindienst and in turn at the Nixon Administration; in spite of the muckraking; in spite of the Washington Post editorials which still go on like a broken record playing in an empty room; in spite of the desperate and extended effort to find something to justify the whole disgraceful democrat-generated fiasco; in spite of it all, not one single piece of evidence was found to justify even questioning Richard Kleindienst's nomination.

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It is the Senator from Kansas' impression that most if not all Senators have reached their decisions on Mr. Kleindienst. Attendance on the Floor since his nomination was brought up would certainly indicate that most of our colleagues have not relied on the statements made here to assess their votes. The American public has certainly tired of hearing the same old arguments and accusations. Repetition of the old, unproven charges, further headline seeking and more delay will not change any votes -- and will not serve the public interest.

OTHER IMPORTANT BUSINESS

The Senate has important business yet to consider in the short time before conventions and campaigns are upon us. It is time to fulfill our responsibility by disposing of this nomination and then turning to the business which awaits our attention.

The Senator from Kansas urges that the vote be taken and that Richard Kleindienst be confirmed as Attorney General.