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# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 1974

## DOLE COMMENTS ON COURTS "RIGHT TO REPLY" DECISION

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today expressed his satisfaction over the Supreme Court's decisions finding unconstitutional a Florida State "right to reply" law. The law gave political candidates an enforceable right to demand that newspapers print their replies to critical editorials.

"Over the past few years the media's influence has grown and become the subject of considerable public debate and controversy," says Dole. "But in a system ordered by First Amendment freedoms, governmental intervention in editorial decision making has no place."

Dole said that he was pleased at the court's decision because it appeared to stem off any legislative attempt to enact a national "right to reply" law. The Senator explained that he had always felt that should such a law come to the Senate, he would have to oppose it. "Newspapers have a right to report things as they see them. They have an obligation to be fair also. The fact that a few of them may not always meet that obligation is not a rationale for subjecting all of them to the threat--or the reality--of governmental compulsion to print what they don't want to print.

"We in public life can expect criticism from the media, some of it fair, some of it unfair. We can complain, criticize and correct, but that is, and should remain, the limit of our response," Dole added.