



NEWS from **U.S. Senator Bob Dole**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DOLE PROPOSAL WILL INCLUDE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS UNDER JURISDICTION OF SPECIAL PROSECUTOR

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The provisions of an amendment introduced yesterday by Senator Bob Dole to include Members of Congress in the jurisdiction of a Special Prosecutor were adopted today as part of a comprehensive Watergate Reform measure. The original bill had exempted allegations of criminal wrongdoing made against the Legislative Branch, covering instead only high-level Executive Branch officials.

"The whole idea behind the need for a Special Prosecutor," Dole pointed out, "is that extra resources and extra visibility should be accorded cases involving politically oriented government figures because of their special position of public trust. If we are going to have an Office of Government Crimes, therefore, with an independent prosecutor, it seems to be imperative that we include Members of Congress within his jurisdictional authority."

The Kansas Senator said the justification for including Members of Congress was very basic, that is, "... that an inherent conflict of interest is going to exist any time the Attorney General has to make a decision as to whether he should prosecute another political officeholder. Certainly, as an appointee of the President, no matter how hard he strives for objectivity, he will always be subject to charges of partiality."

Dole noted that the Criminal Division of the Justice Department now has responsibility for investigating and prosecuting charges against Members of Congress, and in fact is doing so with respect to several cases involving misuse of public funds and unauthorized release of secret information within the House of Representatives. "These types of extraordinary situations demand an unusually high profile to assure the public that they are not being treated as mere routine inquiries," however, he observed, "and top priority assignment with the guarantee of complete impartiality are essential if we are to demonstrate that such misconduct is being dealt with effectively."