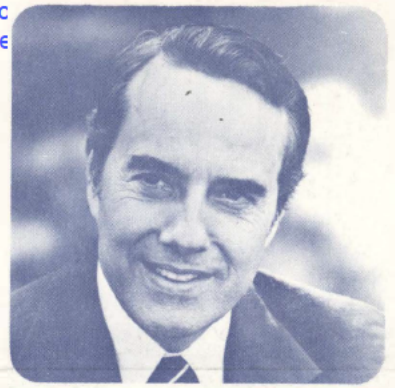


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) 2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MONDAY, JUNE 2, 1980

CONTACT: BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8953

DOLE CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE HEARINGS ON CUBAN REFUGEES

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today called for immediate Judiciary Committee hearings on the Cuban refugee situation.

In a statement on the Senate floor Dole said, "There is a situation which appears to be of increasing cause for concern and alarm among the people of the United States. The administration does not seem quite sure what to do about it. I am speaking of the current exodus of refugees from Cuba into the United States. Yesterday, the extreme overcrowding of the processing camps where the Cubans had been sent exploded in violent and destructive rioting. The citizens of Barling, adjacent to the Ft. Chaffe processing center in Arkansas, were understandably alarmed last night when up to a thousand refugees burst over the gates and threatened to overrun the town. Only by the use of force, tear gas and at some injury to themselves, were state police and army troopers able to turn back the rioters. This is an intolerable situation and the people of the United States rightly demand action.

CALL FOR IMMEDIATE HEARINGS

"It is imperative that we head off further rioting. I have requested, as a member of the Judiciary Committee charged with oversight of immigration affairs, that the Chairman, Senator Kennedy, convene hearings as soon as possible. We need to determine if the United States is operating on a policy to deal with this massive influx of Cubans, or if it is floundering from one day to the next. A House Intelligence Committee Report indicates the CIA warned the administration about the possibility of Cubans leaving in vast numbers. Yet, one month later the Carter Administration reacted to the actual event with a closed door policy, then reversed it to an open door policy, and is now evidently using the leaking door theory -- we still have thousands of Cubans arriving everyday even though the Ft. Chaffee riots show we are unable to cope with them," said Dole.

"It seems to me we need to find out just what our policy is, according to this administration. Do we need to make changes? It is increasingly clear that we do." The Senator from Kansas recently returned from a trip to his state, and the reaction among the people is clear. They don't want to see America become a dumping ground for criminals and potential welfare cheats. The riots and break-outs in the processing centers set up to handle this huge flow of people make our citizens understandably nervous and hostile. "The time has come to act to allay these fears before there are more serious consequences," added Dole.