

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1982

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-6521

DOLE BLASTS CRITICS OF ADMINISTRATION'S PROGRAM FOR THE DISABLED

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) today dismissed recent criticism of President Reagan's programs for the handicapped as "last-minute pre-election rhetoric."

Dole made the comment after a self-proclaimed advocacy group for the disabled held a news conference in Washington yesterday to accuse the President of destroying programs for the disabled through budget cutbacks. "There is no doubt yesterday's 'advocacy press conference' was merely a politically-motivated gimmick," Dole said. "Anyone who is familiar with the facts knows that the Administration, and Congress, have a solid record on care for the disabled, handicapped and neglected children."

According to Dole, the so-called advocacy group is attacking the wrong administration if it is truly disturbed by a congressionally-mandated, periodic review of all disability cases.

"The periodic review was approved by the Carter Administration. Under the Reagan Administration this mandated review is being conducted with the assurance that it will be fully fair and protective of the truly needy," Dole said.

"This partisan advocacy organization does not speak for the handicapped. By playing politics, this group only does a disservice to the very real needs of the disabled," Dole said. "Unfortunately, this political trick is only one of many we can expect to see as election day draws closer," Dole concluded.