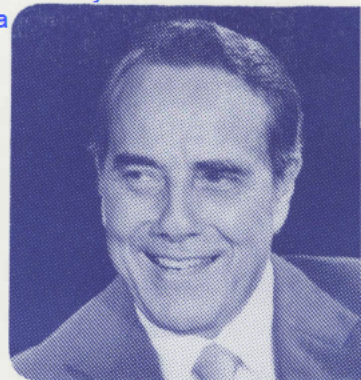


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, JUNE 30, 1986

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DOLE LAUDS DECISION TO UPHOLD VOTING RIGHTS ACT

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole (R-KS) today expressed "gratification" with the Supreme Court ruling in the Gingles case which was handed down earlier in the day.

"In upholding the 1982 amendments to section 2 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, the Court helped guarantee that racial and ethnic minorities will be entitled to participate in the electoral process," Senator Dole said. "A delicate compromise was forged in the Congress to overturn the Court's position in Mobile v. Bolden. A plurality of the Court has now upheld the key provisions of the remedial voting rights legislation."

In the Gingles case the plaintiffs, the black voters of the state, challenged a 1981 North Carolina redistricting plan, which continued the use of large, multi-member districts for state legislative seats. The challenge was upheld by a three-judge District Court panel, but this ruling was appealed by the Attorney General of North Carolina to the Supreme Court. The Justice Department joined with state officials in arguing against the lower court ruling.

Senator Dole joined a bipartisan group of Members of both Houses of Congress as well as the Republican National Committee, League of Women Voters, and North Carolina Governor James Martin (R) in filing an "amicus" brief last fall, which urged the Court to reaffirm the 1982 Voting Rights Act amendments.