

*Bob Dole*



**NEWS**

**U. S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS**

**FROM:**

**SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JANUARY 5, 1993

CONTACT: WALT RIKER  
(202) 224-5358

## **103rd CONGRESS SWORN-IN**

ALL ARE SENATORS "IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD"

I WANT TO ECHO THE MAJORITY LEADER'S STATEMENT QUOTING A FORMER MAJORITY LEADER OF THIS BODY, ROBERT TAFT OF OHIO. I WOULD REITERATE THE VIEW OF SENATOR TAFT:

"THESE SENATORS SHOULD BE PERMITTED TO TAKE THE OATH AND BE SEATED. IT IS MY FURTHER VIEW THAT THE OATH IS TAKEN WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE RIGHT OF ANYONE CONTESTING THE SEAT TO PROCEED WITH THE CONTEST, AND WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO THE RIGHT OF ANYONE PROTESTING OR ASKING FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SENATE TO PROCEED. I BELIEVE THAT THE VARIOUS PROTESTS WHICH HAVE BEEN FILED SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE AND DEALT WITH IN DUE COURSE . . ."

SENATOR TAFT WENT ON TO STATE THAT,

"NOTHING WHICH I OR ANY OTHER SENATOR MAY SAY TODAY IN USING THE WORDS 'WITHOUT PREJUDICE' MAKES THE SLIGHTEST DIFFERENCE, UNLESS THE SENATE TAKES SOME ACTION. WHEN A MAN [OR WOMAN] TAKES THE OATH HE [OR SHE] BECOMES A SENATOR. I EXPRESS MY OPINION THAT THE TAKING OF THE OATH IN NO WAY PREJUDICES ANYONE WHO MAY HAVE FILED A CONTEST. THE TAKING OF THE OATH IN NO WAY CHANGES THE STATUS OF THE CONTEST."

IT IS MY VIEW THAT THE PHRASE "WITHOUT PREJUDICE" USED TODAY IS OF COURSE MEANINGLESS, IN ITS EFFECT UPON ANY SUBSEQUENT SENATE ACTION.

ALL SENATORS SWORN IN TODAY ARE SENATORS IN EVERY SENSE OF THE WORD. IN EFFECT WE ARE ALL SWORN IN "WITHOUT PREJUDICE."

###