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KANSAS

United States Senate

OFFICE OF THE REPUBLICAN LEADER

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STATEMENT OF SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE ON THE BIRTHDAY OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Our President has said we must put aside our racism. But I do not believe we are a racist society. Our President has said there are two Americas. But there is only one.

Thirty three years ago, Martin Luther King, Jr. told us of his dream for America, and today, much of that dream has been realized. We have rooted out legalized discrimination. And we have changed the culture in a way no modern culture has ever changed before. But dreamers are needed still.

We must swing open the doors of opportunity in America; for while they are no longer locked, they are still closed to too many of our people.

Who can say that a child growing up on crime-ridden streets has the same chance at life as a child who does not? Who believes that a youth afraid in the halls of his school can learn in its classrooms? Who still argues that the streets will be quiet when there are no fathers in the homes?

There is a deep and troubling divide between the races about how we see life in this country. Too often we experience it differently, and our experiences seem to be causing callouses of distrust between us. We must not let that happen. For if we think of ourselves as groups with grievances, we will lose the idea of being a people. If there is more than one America, there is no America at all.

Today, as we begin the second half of the last decade in this great American century, let us dream a dream together, once again. Let us open ourselves to hope.

A child with two parents has hope. Let us resolve to restore the American family. A child who is learning has hope. Let us give kids a chance by giving parents a choice and a voice in the education of their children. Crime suffocates hope. Let us send the cavalry into crime ridden streets with more cops, stricter courts, and more certain punishment.

There is no hope where there are no jobs, and there are no jobs where there are no businesses. Entrepreneurs of every color need access to capital. And employers everywhere should resolve to aggressively continue outreach and recruitment. Finally, we must keep the promises we have already made to each other. We must strictly enforce the anti-discrimination laws already on the books.

America was founded on hope, it has been left to us to keep it alive. Let us dream another dream together as one nation and one people with freedom and opportunity for all.

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