



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE SAYS THERE'S A LESSON TO BE LEARNED FROM THE BROOKE CASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Senator Bob Dole (R.—Kansas) today made the following statement on the floor of the Senate concerning the final Ethics Committee report:

"Yesterday we received the final report of the Senate Ethics Committee regarding our distinguished colleague—and my very good friend—Ed Brooke. Need I remind you of the Committee's overall judgment?

"They concluded that Senator Brooke's mistakes, which Ed candidly acknowledged many months ago, were insufficient to warrant any disciplinary action by this body. That is good to know. It is good for the public to hear.

"But it doesn't return Ed Brooke to his rightful place in this chamber. It doesn't wipe clean a slate smudged by accusatory journalism and a near-hysterical atmosphere where guilt is presumed and any public official, no matter how distinguished his record of service, is willingly rejected at the first hint of alleged wrongdoings.

"To my colleagues, I would say this: We have learned a lot from what happened to Ed Brooke. But it has been an expensive lesson. For we have permitted a good and humane man to suffer while most of us raised no more than faint protests against his travail.

"The issue is larger than any individual. May we never forget that this room is a sanctuary of free government, and that government must be based on justice and fair play—for the governors as well as the governed. Anything less renders democratic institutions mere channels of mob rule.

"I think we all might search our consciences this morning—and every morning—lest we permit such an injustice to stain our reputation again. We are United States Senators, who cannot sanction anything less than justice, or history, I fear, will not treat us kindly.

"In conceding defeat at the polls last November, Ed Brooke quoted the author and playwright Lillian Hellman. He told us then, as he demonstrated throughout his career, that he "could not cut his conscience to fit the fashion of any season." It is a standard we might all emulate.

"Mr. President, I would like to ask unanimous consent to place Senator Brooke's statement of March 20, 1979 in the Record, along with Robert G. Kaiser's story in today's Washington Post."