



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE BILL WOULD CREATE EXECUTIVE-LEVEL OFFICE OF HISPANIC AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON -- An executive-level Office of Hispanic Affairs would be established under a bill introduced late yesterday by Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.), along with Sens. Pete Domenici (R-N.M.), John Tower (R-Texas) and Dennis DeConcini (D-Ariz.).

The new Office of Hispanic Affairs would be created under the executive office of the president, and charged with advising the federal government's executive departments and agencies on policies affecting the ever-increasing Hispanic American population. This measure would replace a cabinet-level executive committee for Hispanics that expired on Dec. 31, 1974.

"I believe this legislation would help to address problems which have long hampered the development and upward mobility of the Hispanic American; that is, critical unemployment, low-level education, inadequate housing and health care, unfamiliarity with the English language, and disposition to political apathy," Dole said.

"The re-introduction of this measure is particularly important in light of the estimated 20 million Americans of Hispanic descent. We can no longer ignore the fact that a nation within a nation is emerging. Along the border from California to Texas, and in such non-border cities as Los Angeles, Houston, Denver, and even in some cities in my home state of Kansas, Hispanic Americans make up a significant number of the population. In 1976, according to the Census Bureau, there were about 6.5 million Mexican Americans in the United States. Today the Mexican American population in the Southwest alone is believed to number more than eight million. Whatever the precise number, the growth of Hispanic Americans in this country also needs to be reflected in the meaningful participation of government.

"I do not suggest this bill will provide all the solutions to the problems of Hispanic Americans, but I do believe it will begin to address and provide the the same benefits long enjoyed by other Americans. This bill offers a long-overdue opportunity for the Senate to show its understanding and support for the aspirations of all Hispanic Americans."