

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE WELCOMES FORD REMARKS ON 1980 PRESIDENTIAL RACE

WASHINGTON -- In a Senate floor statement, Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) welcomed remarks made today by former President Gerald Ford clarifying his role in the 1980 presidential race.

"I appreciate the candor of his remarks today," Dole said. "It is typical of him to speak openly and unequivocally about his intentions, and his statements have served to clear away the cloud of confusion that has surrounded his possible participation in the 1980 presidential race."

Following is the text of Senator Dole's floor statement:

"Mr. President, I want to speak briefly about a statement made today by former President Gerald Ford about his role in the 1980 presidential race.

"In that statement, President Ford stated clearly that he has made a firm decision not to become an active candidate for the nomination as the Republican Party's presidential choice. He also said that he has no intention of entering any of the upcoming state primaries, nor will he participate or encourage others to participate on his behalf in the delegate selection process.

"Mr. President, Gerald Ford has played an important part in the success of the Republican Party. When I came to Washington in 1961, he had already firmly established himself as a leader and shaper of Republican Party policy. Later, from his position as Minority leader in the House, and as vice-president, he ably guided Republican forces, and spoke as a symbol of decency and good for Republicans and Democrats alike. As president of the United States, he led our country through difficult times with dignity and grace. It was my honor to serve as his vice-presidential running mate in the 1976 elections.

"Mr. President, perhaps no one in the United States understands our critical need for leadership better than Gerald Ford. And he believes that the challenges that face this nation can best be met by the Republican Party.

"I appreciate the candor of his remarks today. It is typical of him to speak openly and unequivocally about his intentions, and his statements have served to clear away the cloud of confusion that has surrounded his possible participation in the 1980 presidential race.

"It is my fervent hope and belief that Gerald Ford will continue to be active within our party, and provide guidance and perspective for those Republicans who are currently seeking the presidency."