

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) 2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

CONTACT: BOB WAITE

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 14, 1981

(202) 224-8953

REAGAN INAUGURAL CEREMONY TO BE CAPTIONED FOR NATION'S DEAF

(WASHINGTON)-- For the first time in history many deaf and hearing-impaired Americans will be able to follow the Presidential Inauguration ceremonies.

The ceremonies inaugurating Ronald Reagan as this nation's 40th President will be "closed captioned" and fed to over 30,000 televisions across the country. These television sets are equipped with special "decoders" which allow printed captions to appear at the bottom of the screen.

"This will be the first time in history that we will be captioning a 'live' event," according to David Kleeman, Director of the National Captioning Institute, located in Washington, D.C.

"We will be able to provide captioned texts of the swearing-in, the inaugural address, benediction-- all of the set platform events. Thus for the first time many Americans will be able to experience this historic event," Kleeman said.

Senator Bob Dole, who has been a consistent advocate of closed captioning availability for the hearing-impaired, called the project "a significant breakthrough." Dole, who in 1976 insisted that his acceptance speech for the Republican Vice-Presidential nomination be "signed," added that "it's always heartwarming to learn that more of our fellow Americans can participate in the political process."