

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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SENATOR DOLE ON SECRETARY WATT'S COMMENTS

Kansas Senator Bob Dole, twice decorated disabled veteran of WWII, today issued the following statement on Secretary Watt's comments:

"Obviously, he shouldn't have made the remark yesterday. His misguided comments show a rather gross insensitivity. I don't care what he thought he was doing -- whether it was a joke or whatever. I don't mind the Secretary shooting himself in the foot, but I don't think he should continue to punish the President and the Republican party in the process.

"You call the Interior Department now and they have a recording, 'We are sorry again, we're sorry again...' It is just not doing any great service to the Republican party."

"I know Jim Watt may not agree -- he doesn't see things the way other people do, I guess -- but it's an affront to a lot of people in this country. I'm known to have a lot of fun in life with one-liners, but there's a line you can't cross: you don't go out and make jokes about someone's physical condition or the color of their skin or their religion."

"Is his letter of apology to President Reagan enough? The trouble is, he would have to send hundreds of thousands of letters to people. The President is not in any of the groups Mr. Watt insulted. If he is going to send letters to everyone he has offended, he is going to be very, very busy."