

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER  
(202) 224-6521

DOLE: KENNEDY'S REMARKS THREATEN BIPARTISAN SPIRIT OF NUTRITION

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas), Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Nutrition, today said Senator Edward M. Kennedy's recent attacks on the Administration over "hunger" could seriously undermine the traditional bipartisan spirit that has been the hallmark of nutrition legislation.

"It is time to remind Senator Kennedy that the budget savings enacted during the reconciliation process of 1981 and 1982 in federal nutrition programs were the result of a bipartisan consensus in the Congress," said Dole. "Both Republicans and Democrats on the House and Senate Agriculture Committees worked very hard to redesign certain Administration proposals and achieve budget savings that would minimize the impact on poor people. Most of these savings resulted in improved program administration and better targetting of benefits."

"Traditionally, the nutrition program area has been one of bipartisan cooperation -- if my colleague from Massachusetts would like to overturn tradition in the interest of partisan politics, he will do a disservice by undermining their constructive efforts to address the food assistance needs of the poor and unemployed."

"As Chairman of the Senate subcommittee on nutrition, I have actively participated in the development of federal nutrition programs since the late 1960's. For the most part, it is my view that food assistance programs have been effective in alleviating domestic nutrition problems. No one who objectively reviews the issue believes that we are witnessing a return to the conditions which existed two decades ago before the advent of these programs. Remarks like those made recently by Senator Kennedy stir up specters of the past that are quite simply inaccurate," Dole said.