

38

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510-1601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
OCTOBER 5, 1987

CONTACT: WALT RIKER, DALE TATE
(202) 224-3135

DOLE DECRIES VACANT COURT SEAT:
BORK "HELD HOSTAGE TO POLITICS"

ESTHERVILLE, IOWA--AS THE SUPREME COURT OPENED ITS NEW TERM TODAY WITH A VACANT SEAT, SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) SAID THE VACANCY IS "A SAD SYMBOL OF THE POLITICIZATION OF JUDGE ROBERT BORK'S NOMINATION". DOLE, SPEAKING AT AN IOWA TOWN MEETING DURING A PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN SWING, MADE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT:

ON THIS FIRST MONDAY IN OCTOBER, NO JUSTICE IS AN INJUSTICE. THE VACANT SEAT ON THE NATION'S HIGHEST COURT IS A SAD SYMBOL OF THE UNPRECEDENTED POLITICIZATION OF THE SUPREME COURT NOMINATION PROCESS. JUDGE ROBERT BORK, CLEARLY ONE OF THE PREMIER LEGAL SCHOLARS OF THIS GENERATION AND ONE OF THE BEST-QUALIFIED NOMINEES IN THE PAST FIFTY YEARS, HAS BEEN HELD HOSTAGE TO POLITICS.

WE SAW IT COMING WEEKS AGO, WHEN THE HEARINGS ON THE NOMINATION WERE DELAYED FOR AN ALMOST UNHEARD-OF 70 DAYS. DURING THAT TIME, SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS WAGED A RELENTLESS AND ONE-SIDED PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AGAINST JUDGE BORK, A CAMPAIGN THAT TODAY'S WASHINGTON POST DEPLORED FOR ITS "INTELLECTUAL VULGARIZATION" AND "PERSONAL SAVAGERY."

WE WILL SOON RECEIVE THE NOMINATION ON THE SENATE FLOOR, WHERE I HOPE THE DEBATE, BOTH WITHIN THE SENATE AND WITHOUT, WILL RISE TO THE HIGH PLANE IT DESERVES. APPROACHED PROPERLY, THIS CONFIRMATION PROCESS CAN BE AN EDUCATIONAL AND UPLIFTING ONE. SO FAR, HOWEVER, IT HAS BEEN A DISSERVICE TO JUDGE BORK, TO THE SUPREME COURT, AND TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.