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News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE STATEMENT ON TRANS AFRICA AD

I'M PROUD OF MY CIVIL RIGHTS RECORD, AND MY RECORD OF STRONG OPPOSITION TO APARTHEID. THESE PHONY ATTEMPTS TO DISTORT THAT RECORD AREN'T GOING TO FOOL ANYONE.

IN 1985, SENATOR DICK LUGAR AND I WROTE A STRONG ANTI-APARTHEID SANCTIONS BILL; AND I CONVINCED THE PRESIDENT OF THE NEED TO GO ALONG WITH CONGRESS ON TOUGH SANCTIONS -- WHICH HE PUT INTO EFFECT BY EXECUTIVE ORDER. IN 1986 I VOTED FOR AN EVEN STRONGER BILL, AND -- AFTER THAT VOTE -- I AGAIN WORKED HARD TO GET THE PRESIDENT TO PUT NEW TEETH INTO OUR POLICY. WHEN HE AGREED TO DO JUST THAT -- TO ISSUE ANOTHER EXECUTIVE ORDER PUTTING ALMOST EVERY ONE OF THE BILL'S SANCTIONS INTO EFFECT -- I AGREED TO HELP SUSTAIN HIS VETO; FOR THE VERY GOOD REASON THAT WE SEND A MUCH STRONGER MESSAGE TO SOUTH AFRICA WHEN WE SPEAK TOGETHER, IN ONE VOICE, THAN WHEN WE TURN APARTHEID INTO A PARTISAN, DOMESTIC ISSUE.

RANDALL ROBINSON SPEWED OUT THIS VENOM ONCE BEFORE, BUT HIS EFFORT FELL FLAT. NOW HE THINKS HE'LL GET A BIGGER AUDIENCE -- AND MAYBE RAISE SOME MONEY -- BY TRYING TO EXPLOIT MY ANNOUNCEMENT.

IT'S A PRETTY SAD SPECTACLE WHEN SOMEBODY POSTURING AS A CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER USES TACTICS THAT EVERY RESPONSIBLE CIVIL RIGHTS LEADER WOULD REJECT; AND TRIES TO SCORE SOME CHEAP POLITICAL POINTS USING THE VICTIMS OF APARTHEID AS HIS PROPS.