

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE RECOGNIZES JUSTIN DART

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today recognized Justin Dart from the floor of the Senate for his dedication and commitment to disabled Americans and their struggle to become equal participants in society. Mr. Dart recently resigned as Commissioner of Rehabilitation Services Administration within the Department of Education. The resignation becomes effective December 15, 1987.

"The calls I have received since Mr. Dart's resignation have confirmed what I have always known," said Dole. "Mr. Dart is well respected by the disability community and rehabilitation specialists as a strong advocate and spokesperson for disabled Americans who seek equal participation in this society. During his tenure as Commissioner of RSA he tried to make the services offered to disabled individuals as effective and efficient as Congress intended. Even though I am sure he will continue to be involved in disability affairs in some capacity, he will be sorely missed in his role as Commissioner."

Justin Dart's resignation follows closely his comments before a House oversight hearing in which he made a "statement of conscience" about his difficulties in running RSA. His comments were in response to House members concerns about the overall effectiveness of RSA in providing service to disabled persons.

"I am not sure what the problems are," said Dole, "but I will work with the members of the Senate Subcommittee on the Handicapped to find out what they are even if it requires a GAO report. Then I will be involved in creating the solutions necessary to revitalize RSA," Dole said. "RSA is too important to the disability community to allow it to lapse into ineffectiveness. Thousands of disabled individuals in this society both physically and mentally impaired depend on vocational rehabilitation services for their future. We must prevent RSA from becoming disabled itself."