

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE: RNC FOLEY MEMO IS "GARBAGE"

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) MADE THESE REMARKS ON THE SENATE FLOOR TODAY REGARDING A REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMO ON HOUSE SPEAKER TOM FOLEY:

I WOULD LIKE TO...FIRST OF ALL, CONGRATULATE MY FRIEND TOM FOLEY FOR HIS ELEVATION TO SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE. I'VE KNOWN TOM FOLEY FOR TWENTY-SOME YEARS AND WORKED WITH TOM FOLEY ON A NUMBER OF ISSUES RANGING FROM AGRICULTURE TO BUDGET SUMMITS TO A NUMBER OF OTHER THINGS...AND I CONSIDER HIM TO BE A MAN OF TOTAL INTEGRITY AND HONESTY. WE MAY NOT AGREE ON HOW WE VOTE ON CERTAIN ISSUES, BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT IN MY MIND THAT HE WILL BE AN OUTSTANDING SPEAKER AND I WISH HIM WELL. AND AGAIN, I EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS.

AND TO THOSE WHO ARE NOW DEPARTED THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE, WHO SOUGHT IN SOME "CLEVER" WAY TO TARNISH THE IMAGE OR REPUTATION OF TOM FOLEY, I SAY GOOD RIDDANCE.

IT WAS REPORTED TODAY THE PRESIDENT WAS DISGUSTED WHEN HE READ CERTAIN COMMENTS PUBLISHED BY CERTAIN PEOPLE AT THE REPUBLICAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE. AND I WOULD SAY AS A FRIEND OF TOM FOLEY, A MEMBER OF THE OTHER PARTY -- IT MIGHT BE A DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHY -- A MEMBER OF CONGRESS, THAT SOMEWHERE WE HAVE TO DRAW THE LINE. AND THIS CERTAINLY IS A CLEAR CASE.

SO I WOULD HOPE I SPEAK FOR ALL REPUBLICANS, I BELIEVE I DO ON THIS SIDE, THAT, SURE, POLITICS IS ROUGH AND TOUGH, AND WE GO OUT AND TRY TO DEFEAT EACH OTHER, AND WE HAVE HEATED DEBATES AND SOMETIMES WE EVEN SAY THINGS WE WISH WE HADN'T SAID. BUT I WOULD GUESS THIS WAS RATHER A DELIBERATE EFFORT ON THE PART OF SOME TO SMEAR TOM FOLEY BEFORE HE EVEN HAD HIS FIRST DAY AS SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

I KNOW THAT CHAIRMAN LEE ATWATER HAS TALKED TO TOM FOLEY BY TELEPHONE. I KNOW THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES HAS

(MORE)

EXPRESSED HIS DISGUST, AND I THINK HE DID EXACTLY THE RIGHT THING. I THINK I WOULD JOIN THE PRESIDENT; AND I HOPE I SPEAK FOR ALL MY COLLEAGUES -- I KNOW MY DEMOCRATIC COLLEAGUES BUT MY REPUBLICAN COLLEAGUES -- AND SAY THIS, THIS IS NOT POLITICS, THIS IS GARBAGE.

WE'RE DISGUSTED BY IT. IT DOESN'T DO MUCH FOR ANY OF US IN OUR PARTY EXCEPT BRING DISCREDIT, EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T DO THINGS LIKE THIS.

SO I WOULD HOPE THAT SPOKESMAN FOR PARTIES GENERALLY WOULD UNDERSTAND THERE ARE CERTAIN LIMITS, EVEN IN THIS BUSINESS WE'RE IN. I WISH TOM FOLEY WELL IN THE FUTURE.

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