

Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Tuesday, June 27, 1995

Contact: Clarkson Hine
(202) 224-5358

"NATURAL BORN KILLERS"

CHILLING MASSACHUSETTS MURDER SHOULD PROMOTE HOLLYWOOD SOUL SEARCHING

Today's Boston Herald contains a shocking front-page story...a story that should send shivers down the spines of all Americans, especially those who have criticized my call to the entertainment industry to exercise good citizenship when it comes to producing films that celebrate mindless violence.

"We're 'Natural Born Killers'" the headline blares, referring to the "critically-acclaimed" Oliver Stone film.

The Boston Herald story begins, and I quote: "As they changed out of their bloody clothes, the men who plunged a knife into an elderly Avon man 27 times bragged they were 'Natural Born Killers,' a Norfolk County prosecutor said yesterday."

"Haven't you ever seen 'Natural Born Killers' before?," [18 year-old] suspect Patrick T. Morse allegedly bragged to a girl after the gruesome slaying."

According to the Norfolk County prosecutor, "This is one of the most vicious premeditated murders I have ever seen." And Massachusetts State Police Trooper Brian Howe said "my understanding was that they were drawing a comparison between the characters in the movie and themselves."

Of course, no movie "caused" this brutal killing in Massachusetts. We are all responsible for our own actions, period. But, at the same time, those in the entertainment industry who deny that cultural messages can bore deep into the hearts and minds of our young people are deceiving themselves. If the Boston Herald story is true, and if these are the kinds of role models that Hollywood is content to promote, then perhaps some serious soul-searching is in order in the corporate suites of the entertainment industry.

###

* Remarks delivered on Senate floor, approximately 3:25 p.m.