

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
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GLENWOOD MANOR, OVERLAND PARK, KANSAS
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In my first major speech on the Senate floor, I proposed that the President appoint a Task Force for the Handicapped to study the problems and needs of the nation's 42 million mentally and physically handicapped.

Just Wednesday, the President announced formation of a Task Force on the Physically Handicapped. This is a step in the right direction in meeting one of our nation's greatest unmet responsibilities and untapped resources. I am hopeful the President will soon announce organization of a similar task force on the mentally handicapped.

I am proud of the leadership the State of Kansas and its citizens have taken in meeting the problems of the handicapped. This week two prominent Kansans have been named to special task forces. Mrs. Marianna Beach, Hays, has been named to the President's Committee on Mental Retardation and Dr. Karl Menninger, Chairman of the Board, Menninger Foundation, Topeka, has been appointed member of a new President's Task Force on Prisoner Rehabilitation.

Dole
page 2

Today, many handicapped persons lead lives of despair and loneliness. Many feel they could become more self-sufficient and contributing members of society with the proper tools and training.

I am convinced America's public and private sectors can better achieve independence, security and dignity for the person with handicaps.

Well-executed, both of these task forces could provide authoritative guidance to the Administration and Congress as they develop programs and allocate funds and aid the various agencies for the handicapped.

They could also provide new incentive and direction to private and voluntary groups which aid the handicapped.

We have all witnessed the unparalleled achievements of medicine, science, education, technology and related fields. The Government has been relatively successful in terms of numbers assisted, basic research performed and the movement of increasingly large numbers of persons into more productive, satisfying channels. The private sector---with its emphasis on the creativity, concern and energies of the people---has

Dole
page 3

performed herculean tasks in fund-raising, employment, research, public opinion, rehabilitation and through professional organizations and groups for the handicapped themselves.

However, these private organizations have problems too--- problems that are often caused because of inadequate funding to develop needed guidelines, statistical data, quality programs and sufficient, effective professional staffing.

Sadly enough, there has never been a major overall effort to try to determine if public and private money currently expended is doing the job effectively, efficiently and economically as possible. Such a survey could be done by the task forces.

Agencies for the handicapped must do better because they can do better. We must assure each individual with handicaps that he can become as active and useful as his capacities will allow.