

June 19, 1992

TO: Senator Dole  
FROM: Mo West/Gale  
SUBJECT: Decoder Presentation Ceremony

Last year you were given 50 decoders as part of the National Captioning Institute's (NCI) "Words for the World" Award, which was presented to you for your work on the ADA and passage of S. J. Res. 13 -- mandating that Senate floor proceedings be closed captioned.

You donated the 50 decoders given by NCI to the Kansas Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (in Topeka) to disseminate to Kansans in need throughout the state.

You recently requested more decoders for Kansans from NCI and John Ball, President of NCI agreed to give you 35 additional decoders. Each decoder costs approximately \$1,000 when purchased privately. Ten of the 35 decoders from NCI you will present at a Decoder Presentation Ceremony being held this evening at the Kansas City Public Library.

Of the 10 decoders known as "Telecaption 4000" 8 will be available for you to present to disadvantaged students for their personal use. These students are profoundly deaf and range in grade level from early elementary up through the junior high level. You will donate the remaining two decoders to the West Middle School and Washington School in Kansas City to be used in their classrooms.

Closed captioned television enhances language and comprehension skills, shows promise as an education tool, and has been used by educators as a supplement to overall classroom reading. Captioned television offers greater benefits to the learning process. Teachers agree seeing words as they are spoken assists in developing vocabulary, understanding of program content, pace of reading, and word recognition skills. Other ways captioning has been useful in education are:

- \* improve vocabulary, comprehension, and oral reading of remedial readers.
- \* develop sight/meaning vocabulary, oral reading fluency, prediction skills in students studying english as a second language
- \* reinforce listening comprehension and assistance in developing reading and speaking fluency in students learning english as a second language.

Kansas City School District administrators, educators, receiving students, and their families will be in attendance at the ceremony Friday evening. Attached is a schedule of the event. Also attached are the names of the students you will give the decoders to and talking points as you are scheduled to present brief remarks for 5 minutes.

The National Captioning Institute (NCI), Inc., was formed as a nonprofit corporation in 1979 to develop a national closed-captioned television service for the entertainment industry. The primary purpose of closed captioning remains providing deaf and hard of hearing people with the words at the bottom of the television screen to accompany current news, drama, comedy, and special events.

NCI has expanded closed captioned programming beyond the television medium. Home videos, music videos, corporate training tapes, and local news broadcasts.

In addition, NCI will be sending out press releases (see attached release) throughout the state recognizing your legislative accomplishments in making the quality of life better for people with disabilities, especially deaf and hard of hearing people.





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CAPTIONING  
INSTITUTE,  
INC.

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DECODER PRESENTATION

KANSAS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT, KANSAS

The National Captioning Institute is pleased to sponsor a reception on Friday, June 19, at 7:30 pm at the Kansas City Library Building, 625 Minnesota Ave., Kansas City, Kansas. (Please use the library's back entrance and proceed to the 6th floor.)

A total of 10 TeleCaption 4000 decoders will be donated to deserving Kansas City School District hearing-impaired students and two learning centers in recognition of Senator Bob Dole's legislative contributions to improving the quality of life for deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Kansas City School District administrators, educators, receiving students, and family members have been invited to attend. The program outline is as follows:

- |         |  |
|---------|--|
| 7:30 pm | Welcome and acknowledge guests, Dr. Lowell Alexander, Director, Wyandotte Special Education Cooperative                      |
| 7:31    | Students Sing & Sign performance of "God Bless America"  |
| 7:34    | Dr. Alexander introduce June Leffler, National Captioning Institute  |
| 7:35    | Leffler remarks on behalf of NCI, introduce Senator Dole   |
| 7:38    | Senator Dole Remarks   |
| 7:43    | Decoder Presentation to Students (Dr. Alexander will call the names, Leffler will hand out the decoders, Dole congratulates) |
| 7:50    | Dr. Alexander closing remarks, announce refreshments   |

WYANDOTTE COMPREHENSIVE  
SPECIAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE  
INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCE AND MEDIA CENTER  
600 Minnesota Ave. \* Kansas City, Kansas 66101 \* 551-3700

The following students are hearing impaired and participate in the Hearing Impaired classrooms in the Kansas City, Kansas School District.

Student	School	Teacher
1. Jarreau Brewer	John F. Kennedy Elementary	Elizabeth Cossie
2. Diamond Locke	John F. Kennedy Elementary	Elizabeth Cossie
3. Lorretha Young	John F. Kennedy Elementary	Amy Hodges
4. Kendric Hicks	West Middle School	Cindy Eubank
5. Tao Vongchantha	West Middle School	Cindy Eubank
6. Earl Bobrukiewicz	Washington High School	Mary Nelson
7. T.J. & Maria Hughes	Washington High School	Mary Nelson
8. Jamie Brockman	Washington High School	Mary Nelson

One decoder will be used at West Middle's Hearing Impaired Resource Room for 13 Hearing Impaired students in the program.

Another decoder will be sent to the Hearing Impaired Resource Room at Washington High School and 12 Hearing Impaired students will have access to it.





NATIONAL  
CAPTIONING  
INSTITUTE,  
INC.

DATE: June 18, 1992  
FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATE

CONTACT: Don Thieme  
(703) 998-2416  
(V/TTD)

# DOLE TO PRESENT DECODERS TO DEAF STUDENTS

Washington, DC -- It will be a small miracle for eight young Kansas City students on Friday, June 19. These profoundly deaf children will soon be able to "hear" television in their homes at night. Each is going to receive a TeleCaption decoder from the National Captioning Institute (NCI). Decoders will be presented by Senator Bob Dole.

The event will take place on Friday, June 19 at 7:30pm in the library of the Kansas City Board of Education located on the 6th floor. The Board of Education building is located at 625 Minnesota Avenue. (Please use the library's back entrance.) The program will begin with the children signing and singing "God Bless America." School officials, children and their parents will attend the event.

NCI has donated these decoders to the Kansas City School District Hearing-Impaired Program in honor of Senator Dole in recognition of his many contributions to making the quality of life better for people with disabilities, especially deaf and hard-of-hearing people.

Dole was instrumental in securing passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act which guarantees that people with

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Dole was instrumental in securing passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act which guarantees that people with disabilities be provided with equal access to employment, communications, public transportation and accommodations. Dole authored the Air Carriers Access Act and the Employment Opportunities for Disabled Americans Act. He was a strong supporter of the Television Decoder Circuitry Act which requires that all televisions be manufactured with built-in decoder circuitry what will enable viewers to receive captions without additional equipment.

More recently, Dole sponsored an amendment to cable legislation to protect captioning against technologies used by cable companies which may have disrupted captions.

Because of Dole's influence and concern, the Senate is now required to caption its televised floor proceedings. Captioned proceedings began November of 1991.

In addition to the children receiving decoders, two Kansas City schools, West Middle School and Washington School, will be receiving one decoder each for classroom use.

Captioned television is an important education tool that has been shown to improve language and reading skills of all children, especially those who are deaf or hard-of-hearing.

NCI is a nonprofit corporation created with the help of Congress in 1979. NCI introduced the closed-captioning television

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service on March 16, 1980. For the first few years it was the only closed-captioning organization providing captioning services to the television and home video industries. In its twelve year history, NCI has considerably expanded access to these entertainment media for deaf and hard-of-hearing people. Presently, NCI captions over 80% of all national captioned programming while at the same time handling the sole responsibility for decoder development, consumer research, public awareness efforts, and many other activities.

Headquartered in Falls Church, Virginia, it has offices in Hollywood and New York City. For more information, call NCI at 1-800-533-9673 (voice) and 1-800-321-8337 (TDD).

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STATEMENT OF SENATOR ROBERT DOLE  
ON PRESENTATION OF DECODERS  
TO KANSAS CITY SCHOOL CHILDREN  
KANSAS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT  
KANSAS CITY, KANSAS  
JUNE 19, 1992



**\*Thank you, I am honored to be here today.**

**\*Congress has long recognized the importance of providing programs and services that enable people with disabilities to live lives of dignity and independence -- to take part in all that our society offers.**

**\*Just a year ago Congress passed and the President signed into law the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act guaranteeing the inclusion of people with disabilities into the mainstream of American society.**

**\*As this country fulfills its promise to integrate Americans with disabilities into our towns and**



**communities, it is essential that we realize the obstacles that exist toward that goal.**

**\*Today I am pleased to donate to the Kansas City School District 2 TeleCaption 4000 Decoders from the National Captioning Institute.**

**\*In addition, I am especially pleased to provide the students here today with their own personal**

**TeleCaption Decoder to assist you  
in acquiring greater access to  
television and educational  
programming.**

**\*Captioned television enhances  
language and comprehension  
skills, shows promise as an  
education tool, and has been used  
by educators as a supplement to  
over all classroom reading**



**exercises. Teachers agree seeing words as they are spoken assists in developing vocabulary, understanding of program content, pace of reading, spelling and word recognition skills.**

**\*I am proud to have sponsored S. Res 13 which mandated that Senate proceedings be closed captioned so that EVERY American**

**will have the opportunity to take  
part in their democratic process.**

**The more people participate in our  
democracy, the stronger it  
becomes. No individual should be  
denied that right due to lack of  
access to the process. Our  
viewers may not always like what  
they see. But they will have the  
opportunity to judge for**



**themselves whether they are being  
well-served by their elected  
leaders. It is time to extend that  
opportunity.**

**\*I have to tell you that even with  
the decoders, there may be some  
Senators who don't make any  
sense...**

**\*Thank you.**