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November 12, 1987

Senator Robert Dole
141 Hart Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Dole:

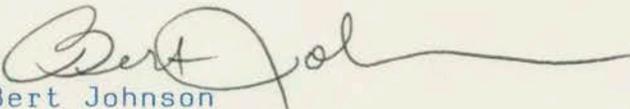
Please allow me to introduce myself. I am Bert Johnson, president and publisher of EXCEL--the magazine designed for today's Black professional (circulation: 125,000).

Each quarter we invite a prominent person to write an essay for our "Guest Editorial" department of the magazine. We would very much be interested in having you write an essay for our upcoming Winter '87 issue. I think it would be most interesting and beneficial to our readers if you would elaborate on your previous statements concerning the importance of the Republican party opening up its ranks to more Blacks, women and other minorities.

Because of our fast approaching deadline, we would need to receive the essay (500 words or less) and a black and white photograph of you by **November 20, 1987.**

I greatly appreciate your time and consideration during this very busy campaign time.

Regards,


Bert Johnson
President/Publisher

BLJ/cads

Enclosures

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EXPANDING THE REPUBLICAN PARTY
by Senator Robert Dole

When I announced that I was a candidate for the presidency in early November, I emphasized my belief that the Republican Party must expand its ranks to include more Blacks and other minorities. There is a perception that we Republicans are not sensitive to the needs of those Americans who have not had the chance to participate fully in the economic and political opportunities available to the citizens of this nation. We must show that this perception is unfounded: the Republican Party is concerned with issues of importance to Black Americans; it is sensitive to those who are struggling to fulfill their dreams. This message is central to my campaign.

Politically, we have come a long way from the days before the landmark civil rights acts of the sixties. Those statutes mark a significant step in our progress toward bringing Black Americans fully into the political process. I supported those bills as a congressman from Kansas. Today, as a presidential candidate, I support their full enforcement so to assure that every American has the opportunity to advance the candidates for public office whom they believe will best contribute to a prosperous, secure, and just America. I support their enforcement so to eliminate discrimination in employment, education, housing, and public accommodations.

In the period 1980-1986, when the Republicans controlled the Senate, we compiled a record on civil rights of which I am very proud. In 1983, the extension of the Voting Rights Act aroused much controversy, but we succeeded in forging a consensus proposal that extended it for twenty-five years. I take great pride in my leadership role in that effort. When the Justice Department later attempted to interpret the law too narrowly in the Gingles case, Senate Republicans were among the most vocal protesters. We brought the King Holiday legislation before the Senate after it had languished for fifteen years, and we managed to defeat its opponents and pass a bill that suitably honored America's foremost civil rights leader.

Though I am proud of my leadership role in passage of those civil rights measures, I am very disappointed that the Republican Party has failed to attract greater support from the Black community. The Republican Party that Bob Dole admires is dedicated to eliminating the peril of runaway budget deficits, which threaten the economy's ability to provide economic opportunity. It is committed to working with Black leaders to break the cycle of social and economic misery that oppresses too many Americans. And it supports social programs that, rather than fostering dependency, promote real economic opportunity and self-sufficiency.

The Republican Party has traditionally practiced the kind of common-sense economics which maximize opportunity for all Americans.

We are sensitive to the left-out and the down-and-out. We seek to implement programs that will permit them to take productive jobs and exercise their abilities. And we must fully enforce the laws that Congress passed to allow all persons to participate equally in all aspects of American life. Such measures will be good for the party and best for America.