

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE WANTS 'UP OR DOWN' VOTE ON MANDATORY WAGE-PRICE GUIDELINES

WASHINGTON-- Saying that the nation needs to know where things stand on the issue, Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today offered an amendment which would put Senators on record for or against mandatory wage and price controls.

Dole, who said he hoped the "sense of the Senate" vote would "make it clear that these controls should not be imposed," introduced his amendment to a bill involving the Rock Island Railroad.

"Controls on our economy are ill-advised and the taxpayers deserve more than these kinds of election year antics when it comes to solving our number one domestic problem-- inflation," said Dole.

Dole, the ranking Republican member of the Senate Finance Committee, says that "talk of wage and price controls is fueling the inflationary fires that are already ravaging the American consumer. My amendment, I believe, will aid in allaying the fears of business and labor."

Mandatory controls disaster

Calling mandatory wage and price controls "the last refuge of an Administration desperate to recover from its own ill-conceived policies," Senator Dole went on to note that in 1976, when the Ford Administration left office, inflation was 4.8 percent.

"Today we are faced with an inflation rate of 18 percent, a prime interest rate of 17 percent or more and a federal deficit which threatens to top the 40-billion dollar mark. Now, belatedly, President Carter and Alfred Kahn are launching an election year charade involving budget cuts. Where were these people for the past three years, when myself and many of my colleagues were pleading for budget restraint?"

Senator Dole added that the bulk of the blame for inflation "rests squarely on the shoulders of President Carter and the Democratic Congress."