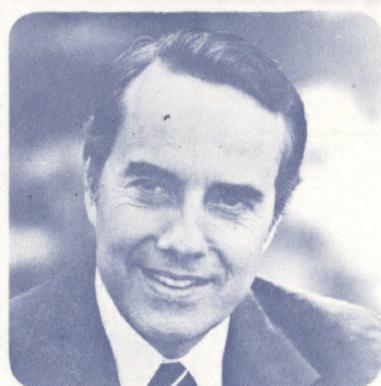


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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MONDAY, JUNE 16, 1980

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THE MAJORITY LEADER'S CONFUSION OVER FOREIGN POLICY

WASHINGTON -- The following is a floor statement delivered today by Senator Bob Dole:

"Over the weekend the Senator from Kansas took note of the remarks the distinguished Majority Leader made in his regular Saturday morning news conference concerning the future foreign policy of the future President Reagan. This early attack on Mr. Reagan, who is not yet the official nominee of the Republican Party, seems to suggest great concern about Mr. Reagan's chances of winning the November election. Needless to say, the pessimistic outlook by the Senator from West Virginia on the chances for election of his party's nominee were surprising to the Senator from Kansas, although entirely in agreement with the Senator from Kansas' own realistic projections of the results on November 4th," said Senator Dole.

"The Majority Leader's remarks were obviously a sneak preview of the attack Governor Reagan can expect to receive in the upcoming presidential campaign. These remarks were a little premature, I believe, coming as unilateral charges in a closed forum. If the Senator from West Virginia is going to debate putative foreign policy issues with Mr. Reagan, then maybe we ought to have a foreign policy debate, and here in the Senate would be a more appropriate place to have it. This week there are scheduled several foreign policy bills, and it is perhaps a most convenient time not only to discuss this Administration's deplorable conduct of foreign policy, characterized by President Carter's famous but incalculable flip-flops, but also the reprehensible disregard for the provisions of the law the Senate has written which the Administration has chosen not to endorse."

FOREIGN POLICY CHARACTERIZED BY EXPEDIENCY

"The Senator from West Virginia chose to lead off his attack by questioning the results of our policy toward Communist China and the Republic of China on Taiwan should Mr. Reagan be elected. Surely, there is no better example of the expediency which has characterized President Carter's pursuit of foreign policy. His first move was to abrogate the mutual defense treaty with the Republic of China without the advice and consent of the Senate that many feel is the Constitutional duty of the Chief Executive. He additionally violated the provisions of the Dole-Stone Amendment, passed by the Senate in a 96-0 vote, and signed into law only three months previously, that required him to consult with the Senate over any actions that might affect the mutual defense treaty," said Dole.

"This course of defiance of the Senate, the Constitution, and the laws of the land was blithely taken by the President in the days just before Christmas, 1978, in order to score a cheap, short-term victory in the polls at a time when the Middle East peace talks he had staked his prestige on were faltering. Recognition and official relations with the People's Republic of China were bought with the perfidious jettisoning of our long time, faithful ally, Taiwan. No one disagreed with the President's right to recognize Mainland China, nor indeed disagreed with the need for closer ties with the most populous nation on earth. It had been Republican Administrations who had made the opening with Peking and gradually evolved the conditions for closer relations. But, Jimmy Carter's grandstanding threw all this away when he made his surprise announcement. The United States made all the concessions, the People's Republic made none, and Taiwan paid the price.

"The Congress did a great deal to ameliorate the damage in the Taiwan Relations Act we rewrote last year, and later today when we discuss the State Department Authorization Bill in depth, I will criticize at length the Administration's attempts to circumvent the letter and spirit of this law.

CONFUSION IN FOREIGN POLICY

"So the Taiwan issue is a particularly appropriate place to start in discussing the probable differences in foreign policy by the Carter and Reagan Administrations. The Senator from Kansas does not know what President Reagan's approach to the government in Taipei may be, but it is obvious his policy will be based on principle, rather than expediency, and with a view toward long-term geo-political strategy and a comprehensive world view, rather than the splintered, haphazard approach we have seen in the last three-and-a-half years.

"The sudden zig-zags of our foreign policy have left our allies confused and bewildered. The countless flip-flops we have witnessed, like the recent U.N. vote against Israel that President Carter later repudiated, are testimony to the fact that the President has sacrificed foreign policy time and again to the exigent requirements of his domestic standing in the polls. The Senator from West Virginia has referred to "the kind of confusion that would occur in U.S. foreign policy if Reagan is elected." But, surely confusion is confusion, no matter the source, and we have had three-and-a-half years of confusion and reversals under President Carter. Not only is it time for a change, we must pray for it," Dole said.

COUNT ON IT

"The Senator from Kansas looks forward to next January when once again the United States and its foreign policy will be dependable, coherent, strong, and consistent. It will be based on firm principles of United States strategic purpose and anchored in honorable commitments to our treaties and our allies. It will be based on reason and not temporary standings in the polls. The era of confusion will be over. The United States will continue to face danger and uncertainty on the world scene in the 1980's. But, we can do so with a new resolve as our friends and enemies begin to learn we mean what we say again, and the respect for American commitments is restored. And, you can count on that.

"If the distinguished Majority Leader is confused on Mr. Reagan's foreign policy, then let me reassure him. There will be a change after November 4th and the confusion will come to an end. And, you can count on that," said Senator Dole.