

BOB DOLE



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DOLE: EXPECT CARTER TO BECOME BORN-AGAIN TAX CUTTER

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that Americans can expect President Carter to become "a born-again tax cutter" in the next few weeks.

"Given the reversals we have seen this President and this Administration take since taking office, it wouldn't surprise me at all to hear that President Carter has become a born-again tax cutter," Dole said.

The Dole-Conable tax cut bill, offered Thursday in the Senate and given the approval of Republican presidential contender Ronald Reagan, has come under intense attack from Democrats hoping to seize the issue from Republican tax cut advocates.

Yesterday, House Speaker Thomas O'Neill called this Republican proposal an "unstable act."

"The citizens of the nation will not be fooled," Dole said. "They know it has been the Republicans who, for the past three years, have been fighting for tax relief. Jumping on the bandwagon at this late date will be seen for what it is -- a desperate attempt to regain ground in the polls by a President in deep trouble.

"Thanks to the prodding of Governor Reagan and the Republican leadership in Congress, it appears that taxpayers will receive a tax cut in January. While my proposal was defeated Thursday along strict party lines, the concept of a tax cut was quickly embraced by the Democratic leadership.

"I am content to fight for this proposal on any battleground, whether it be on the floors of Congress or in the Finance Committee. I'm confident that the American people will remember which party has remained constant on the issue of tax cuts, and which party has opportunistically seized a popular platform."

The Dole-Conable bill provides a 10 percent across-the-board tax cut for individuals and improved depreciation rates to aid business investment.