

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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### FLOOR STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE ON BILLY CARTER INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) made the following floor statement late yesterday afternoon:

"The recent revelations surrounding Billy Carter's representation on behalf of the Libyan government and the resulting Justice Department investigation raises many questions which should be answered.

"As reported by the media, Billy Carter's conduct over the past year and a half, needs an impartial review. The President's brother first met with Libyan officials in September 1978. Subsequently, Libyan officials came to the U.S. as the guest of Billy Carter. On January 12, 1979, the Justice Department, having commenced its investigation of Carter's Libyan activities, sent him a letter asking him to file as an agent of the government of Libya. This letter and a similar follow-up letter went unanswered.

"In August 1979, Billy Carter returned to Tripoli for a two-month stay and in time to attend the 10th anniversary celebration of Colonel Qaddafi's revolutionary Marxist government. In January 1980, Carter, while denying to FBI agents that he was a paid representative of the Libyan government, received a \$20,000 "loan," with no written terms, from Tripoli. He received another "unwritten loan" for \$200,000 this April.

"On June 2, 1980, the Justice Department learned for certain of the \$220,000 pay off. Within a week, Billy Carter somehow was informed of the Justice Department's knowledge. On June 11, he discussed the matter with National Security Adviser Ebnigniew Brzezinski and then separately with White House Chief Counsel Lloyd Cutler. Mr. Cutler specified the legal counsel that Billy Carter should retain - Stephen Pollack and Henry Ruth. That same day, Pollack contacted the Justice Department and settlement negotiations began.

"On July 14, more than four weeks later, a settlement agreement was finally announced. Billy Carter would have to obey the law and register as a foreign agent. In return, he admits no guilt nor would face prosecution for his past failure to comply with the Foreign Agents Registration Act.

"This chain of events, if true, raises a multitude of questions which the American people have a right to have answered.

"First, concerning Billy Carter's conduct with regard to the law, was he not put on full notice by the Justice Department letters in early 1979 that he had a legal obligation to register as a foreign agent? The Act requires every person, except under certain exemptions not applicable here, who becomes an agent of a foreign country, to register within ten days with the attorney general. Why does Carter's apparent repeated failure to comply until he knew of the Justice Department's certain knowledge of the pay offs constitute a violation of the law under 22 U.S.C. Section 618(a)(2), subjecting him to five-year, \$10,000 fine criminal sanctions? Moreover, did Billy Carter have some inside government source which illicitly tipped him off the first week of June that the Justice Department was closing in?

"Secondly, concerning the Justice Department handling of the investigation, when their letters to Billy Carter in early 1979 went unanswered, why didn't they bring suit forcing him to register? Why did it take over four weeks to work out a negotiated settlement? Why, in light of the apparent evidence against Billy Carter did the Justice Department agree not to prosecute?

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"Mr. President, I have no way of verifying the press accounts recently reported so extensively. Perhaps the conduct of the Justice Department indicates favoritism shown to the President's brother. Perhaps it is indicative of the difficulty the Justice Department's registration unit has in enforcing the Act, with a limited staff, no subpoena power over other agencies, and no civil penalties to impose. In either case, the situation should be fully explored.

"That is why on July 18 I made a formal request for Senate Judiciary Committee Hearings to delve into the unanswered questions about Billy Carter's Libyan connection. Such hearings gain increased relevance in light of the disclosure by Robert Vesco in a separate Judiciary Committee investigation, as reported by the press today, that he had interceded for the Libyans to procure release of a U.S. government ban on some airliners sought by Colonel Qaddafi. Perhaps the Judiciary Committee inquiry of Billy Carter could be coordinated with that of Robert Vesco to exhaust thoroughly all possibilities of Libyan influence over U.S. officials.

"In closing, Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that an editorial by columnist William Safire printed in today's New York Times be placed in the Congressional Record at this point."