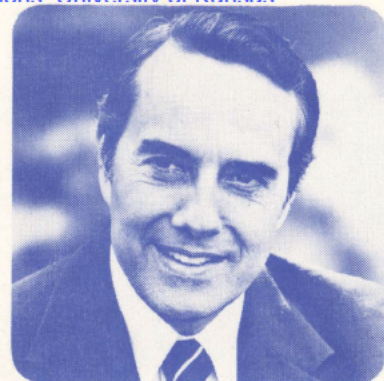


# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 1980

CONTACT: BOB WAITE  
(202) 224-8953

## STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE BILLY CARTER

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) made the following statement today:

"The Senator from Kansas requests the full Senate Judiciary Committee to investigate completely the confused events surrounding Billy Carter's relationship to the government of Libya.

"As we all know by now, Mr. Carter entered into a consent agreement with the Justice Department which required him to register as an agent of the government of Libya. Mr. Carter agreed to do this only after the Justice Department brought a law suit against him, claiming that he had violated the Foreign Agents Registration Act by failing to properly register as a foreign agent. To this day, Mr. Carter had denied any wrongdoing.

"Obviously, one purpose of the full committee inquiry would be to investigate whether Mr. Carter did in fact violate the Foreign Agents Registration Act. It is interesting to note that in 1963, Igor Cassini, international publicity agent and friend of the Kennedy family, was successfully prosecuted by then Attorney General Robert Kennedy for failing to register as a foreign agent of the Dominican Republic. It was disclosed that Cassini, while acting as a secret intermediary between the White House and President Trujillo, had received \$150,000 from the Dominican government for spreading 'political propaganda' to improve its public image. Cassini received the maximum fine under the Act.

"Yet investigating the failure of Mr. Carter to register under the Act would only be a secondary responsibility of this full committee inquiry. Indeed, Mr. Carter's actions with respect to the Foreign Agents Registration Act apparently constitute only the tip of the proverbial iceberg.

"What is of greater concern, and what is the primary thrust of this investigation, is the connection between the allegedly improper activities of Mr. Carter and various persons in the office of the President. It seems that every day new factual allegations turn up in the press concerning a range of contact by a range of people in the White House with Mr. Carter just at the point when the Justice Department investigation of Mr. Carter was reaching a critical stage. Furthermore, just last night, the Administration disclosed that during the past two years, various contacts between top White House officials and Billy Carter concerning his Libyan connection have been that the Justice Department chose to enter into a consent agreement with Mr. Carter which spared him any of the substantial penalties which could be imposed under the Foreign Agents Registration Act. Thus questions have been raised about the possibly improper role of the White House in the Justice Department's actions. Questions have even been raised about President Carter's involvement in this affair. What did he know about his brother's potentially illegal activity? When did he become aware of the FBI investigation?

"It is the view of the Senator of Kansas that this situation serves to cast an unfortunate cloud upon the Presidency. It is disheartening that the standing of the Presidency should be threatened during the Administration of the man who asked all of us, 'Why not the best?' Has our trust in these institutions of government been misplaced, or, once again, are human frailties, not institutional weaknesses, at the root of this apparent problem? Such questions cannot be ignored.

"Undoubtedly we cannot avoid recognizing that this year is a highly charged political year. No matter what demurrals one may make, any questions which are raised about the propriety of the actors in these events are likely to produce replies that such queries constitute groundless political innuendo. If there are persons who are guilty of unethical or illegal behavior in all this, this year is the best moment for them to escape the censure of their fellow citizens. Charges of political slander cannot only silence those of a different party who wish to investigate this matter, but they can also intimidate responsible members of the President's Party who wish to hold the occupant of the White House to a consistently high standard of conduct.

"The Senator from Kansas frankly admits that charges of playing politics cannot be avoided if this matter is to be resolved, but resolve it we must. We can fairly and legitimately investigate this matter. In this Senator's opinion, this can be done best by utilizing the expertise of the full Judiciary Committee.

"The investigation requested by the Senator from Kansas would include not only the activities of Billy Carter in representing the interests of the Libyan government. It would also focus in on whether Mr. Carter's activities the Justice Department investigation, and the consent decree involved illegal, improper, or otherwise unethical activities of persons associated with the office of the President, of any other person.

"President Carter has publicly urged his brother to 'Tell all.' Now that the Justice Department, by virtue of the consent decree, has terminated its investigation, the Senate Judiciary Committee provides the most proper forum where Billy Carter may 'Tell all.'

"The Senator from Kansas believes that a full committee investigation offers the best possibility of a fair and responsible resolution of the dilemma in which the White House is now entangled. Of course, if the committee feels such an investigation is inappropriate, there are other approaches such as establishing a Senate select committee which might be considered.

"However, Mr. Chairman, the Senator from Kansas believes that a full Judiciary Committee inquiry is the best forum which can moderate political grandstanding while giving Americans the answers to which they have a right. This Senator urges all his colleagues to support this request for a full Judiciary Committee investigation."