

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE ON THE BILLY CARTER INVESTIGATION

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) made the following statement today at the opening meeting of the Senate Select Committee investigating Billy Carter:

"At the outset, I want to express my appreciation to you and the members of this Committee for so quickly and effectively responding to my request for the Committee to investigate the circumstances surrounding the consent decree in which Mr. William A. Carter, III, has been required to register as an agent of the Libyan government.

"This investigation comes in the midst of the quadrennial process of the election of the president. In fairness to all concerned, the investigation should be conducted with balance, fairness and dispatch and should move quickly to a just conclusion.

"This Senator is determined that there will be no fishing expedition, no witch hunt, but we are concerned that there not be a double standard of justice for those close to the high and powerful offices of the land. This inquiry will attempt to resolve the many unanswered questions and charges which have been aired in the public press in recent days. We must sort fiction from fact and baseless charges from actual wrongdoings. This Committee is not a court of law. It does not serve as judge and jury, but rather seeks to perform the legitimate functions of oversight and investigation.

"The Committee's investigation will inquire into matters which could go to the heart of the federal justice system. We must be sensitive to The Justice Department's role as the government's criminal prosecutor while we exercise our oversight functions.

"The Committee should also be mindful of the proceedings of the Federal Grand Jury in New York, which according to press reports, may well be investigating certain matters which may also encompass the jurisdiction of the Committee.

"Another judiciary group on which this Senator serves, The Improvements in Judicial Machinery Subcommittee, has already been charged to expand the inquiry into The Justice Department's handling of the so-called Vesco case. It has been suggested by those close to the matter that it may lead in part to the activities of Mr. William A. Carter, III. I do not know. But I do know that we have an obligation to the American people to get to the bottom of these charges.

"In the next few days, the Select Subcommittee will be organized, its membership and staff selected, and its mission defined.

"This Senator again expresses his thanks and pledges to do what he can to assist in the vital work of this group."

Senator Dole is one of four Republicans named to the nine-man blue ribbon committee. The committee first met at 2:30 P.M. Friday in the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing room, 2226 Dirksen Senate Office Building.