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DOLE SAYS BLAMING CURRENT RECESSION ON GOP 'AN EXERCISE IN SELF-DELUSION'

RUSSELL, KANSAS-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today said that "recent statements by President Carter on the economy are an exercise in self-delusion. Jimmy Carter may be the only incumbent President who ever tried to run for re-election by distancing himself from the deeds of his own Administration," Dole added.

Dole was responding to statements by the President. Mr. Carter said GOP tax plans are "sugar-coated poison" and that "Republicans are responsible for inflation and unemployment" in separate speeches Wednesday and Thursday.

"The President seems to have a poor grasp of the facts," said Dole. "When Gerald Ford and I were running together in 1976 inflation was a little over 4% and unemployment was about 8%-- and by the end of the campaign both figures were headed down. Blaming Ford and the Republicans for the current economic mess makes about as much sense as blaming Woodrow Wilson for the Great Depression. Any college freshman economics student knows that the inflationary cycle began in the mid-1960's, when Lyndon Johnson and a Democratically-controlled Congress decided to fund the Vietnam War with deficit spending, rather than by raising taxes," said Dole. "There's nothing to be gained by pointing fingers," added the Kansas Republican. "What a President needs to do is to come up with some solutions."

Dole added that while Carter may view the Republican tax proposal and other GOP economic initiatives as "sugar-coated poison", most economists don't agree.

"Most of the economists who testified before the Senate Finance Committee would have compared our program to a sugar-coated vitamin pill-- easy to swallow and good for you, too," said Dole.