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CARTER'S STATEMENT ON SOCIAL SECURITY DECEPTIVE, SAYS DOLE

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today said, "President Carter has leveled another of his deceptive attacks on Governor Reagan, this time for a 16-year old statement that the Social Security system should be voluntary. This, he says, would 'destroy the system'. A brief review of a far more recent period -- the last four years -- reveals that Carter has done more to undermine retirement security than any president since the Social Security program was initiated."

Carter Social Security Tax Increase

"During his four years in the White House, Carter has recommended massive Social Security tax increases and numerous significant benefit cuts. In 1977 Carter recommended and the Congress passed the largest tax increase in the history of this country. (Carter broke his own record last year when he signed the even larger Windfall Profit Tax.) Next year alone the Social Security tax is due to increase by \$16 billion. Carter's 1977 Act will increase Social Security taxes by \$150 billion through 1985," Dole added.

Carter Benefit Cuts

"At the same time Carter has proposed numerous benefit reductions every year that he has been in the White House," Dole pointed out.

Among the benefits that Carter has tried to wipe out are:

1. Post-secondary student benefits;
2. Lump-sum death benefits;
3. Minimum benefits for future retirees; and
4. Parent's benefits when the youngest child reaches 16 instead of 18.

"He also has proposed increasing the age of eligibility for Social Security retirement by one month and reducing Social Security benefits by \$1 for every \$3 of a Federal pension," Dole said.

"In addition to proposing benefit cuts, he has opposed constructive changes designed to eliminate inequities. For example, he opposed modifying the monthly earnings test that has been denying earned benefits to self-employed farmers, teachers, salesmen and others," said Dole.

Carter Breaches Contract With Americans

"Social Security is a solemn contract between American workers and their government. It is a serious breach of faith to reduce benefits after workers have spent their whole lives contributing to their retirement and planning on certain benefits," Dole said.

"It is incredible that Carter should criticize anyone for damaging the retirement security of our citizens. Before he attacks, let him defend. Let him tell the woman who has lost her husband that he tried to take away the death benefits that are intended to help bury him. Let him tell the child who is trying to go to college after his father has died that he would take away his student benefits. Let him tell the low-income worker who has paid into Social Security his or her whole life that he would eliminate minimum benefits."

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General Fund Financing

"The Carter record on Social Security is not a good one. He has consistently proposed tax hikes and benefit reductions. His most recent so-called "economic recovery" plan contains another broadside on the Social Security system. He has proposed a tax credit that, in effect, amounts to back door general fund financing of Social Security. This proposal would drive a wedge between a worker's contributions and his benefits. If anything will undermine the viability of our Social Security system, general fund financing will do it," Dole concluded.

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