



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE PREDICTS ACTIVE FIRST 60 DAYS FOR CARTER

Palm Beach, Florida --- Senator Bob Dole today predicted an active first 60 days for the Carter Administration and suggested that its early efforts would set the tone of the Administration for the entire first year.

"President Carter's policy decisions during the first two months of 1977 will largely determine his impact for the entire first year of his Presidency," Dole noted in remarks prepared for delivery today to the Palm Beach Roundtable. "Under the new budget act, each committee in Congress must recommend the cost of its programs prior to March 15 of each year. This means the basic policy decisions must be made by the Administration in its first two months on issues such as the farm bill, food stamp reform, aid to New York City, energy, and the water pollution and clean air programs."

On the domestic scene, Dole predicted prompt Carter action on the pardon of Vietnam draft evaders, strong initiatives to quickly enact an economic stimulus package, a rejection of the gasoline deregulation proposals submitted by the Ford Administration, and progress in the effort to pass legislation granting President Carter authority to implement government reform. Dole foresaw limited conflict with Congress on these matters, but predicted some disagreement on the scope of the reorganizational authority Congress would give the Executive branch, and some argument over the size of the public works stimulus proposal.

In the international arena, Dole said he felt the Administration would move quickly to reassure our allies of our continuing support and he predicted a strong effort to finalize a new strategic arms limitation agreement in the coming year.

Dole said he felt the Carter Administration was already hedging on some of its campaign commitments, such as promises to cut defense spending, reduce unemployment, enact massive new spending programs, and balance the federal budget. "These are all very complex issues," Dole said. "They are being perceived somewhat differently and more realistically by the Carter Administration now that they are in the driver's seat."

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