



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## CARTER STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE IGNORES REALITIES

WASHINGTON -- Following is a reaction from Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) to President Carter's State of the Union message this evening:

"Tonight President Carter spoke of myths. He said it is a myth that we must choose endlessly between inflation and recession.

"Yet the reality is that we seem headed for double-digit inflation and a recession during the coming year.

"He told us that in our government it is a myth that we must choose between compassion and competence.

"In reality, we've had precious little of either.

"And the President said that in our relations with our potential adversaries, it is a myth that we must choose between confrontation and capitulation. Yet the reality is that we have not succeeded in building the kind of foundation needed to produce a stable world of diversity and peace. The reality, unfortunately, is that we live at a time when instability is rampant and the prospects for peace are unclear.

"Tonight we heard the President congratulate himself for submitting a budget with a \$29-billion deficit. But he did not mention the reality of the dubious accounting methods which allowed the Administration to reach this figure. Nor did he mention the fact that inflation has doubled since the Ford Presidency.

"We heard the President call for the first steps in achieving a national health plan, yet have yet to learn just what kind of plan the Administration has in mind.

"We were told that the President plans to keep our nation strong, but he chose to ignore our crumbling position in the Middle East which threatens our very security.

"And the President spoke of his commitment to SALT II and his conviction that the Soviets will negotiate in good faith, but admitted that not all issues of SALT II have been resolved.

"And the President promised a commitment to a prosperous, peaceful and secure life for the people of Taiwan, only a month after he unilaterally abrogated a treaty designed to do just that.

"A State of the Union message is meant to inform and inspire. As we move towards the 1980s, and as we seek new directions, this speech does not stand as a guidepost, however.

"The President promised a 'new foundation.' Upon examination, I think what this speech gave us was a good deal of rhetoric and precious little substance -- a shaky foundation at best."