

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-8946

436

FOR RELEASE 5 P.M. DECEMBER 1, 1971

STATEMENT ON SENATE FLOOR BY U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE

SWEET SMELL OF PRESIDENTIAL POLITICS MAY
PLAY A PART IN CHANGED CONVICTIONS

Some 18 months ago the distinguished Junior Senator from Washington made a speech in which he said:

"Last year, when the Senate was debating a controversial Cabinet nomination, I argued that the President was entitled to wide latitude in the selection of his Cabinet. I took the position that the President, not the Senate, sets the standard of competence and qualifications for his Cabinet. These are the President's men and, barring some extraordinary deficiencies, he is entitled to exercise the executive responsibility with men of his own choosing. If the voters are unhappy with his selection, their voice will be heard at the next election."

The Senator who said those words is now a candidate for President and has announced he will vote against the confirmation of Dr. Earl Butz of Indiana as the new Secretary of Agriculture.

What made him change?

I don't know why the Senator from Washington changes his conviction on this issue, but I suspect the sweet smell of Presidential politics may have played a part in that switch.

DR. EARL BUTZ IS QUALIFIED FOR THE JOB

In the case at hand the President has submitted the name of a man who is clearly qualified by both training and experience to hold this important job.

No one has alleged, much less proved, that he is not competent.

No one has claimed or showed that he is dishonest.

No one challenges his administrative ability or his knowledge of agricultural policy.

No, none of these basic qualifications are in question -- only his politics and associations.

It was not too many years ago that many of those who now howl for Earl Butz's scalp were deriding the concept of "guilt by association."

Earl Butz was a member of President Eisenhower's administration. He served in the Department of Agriculture as an assistant secretary. He has been associated with a great university and he has been in the service of respectable American business firms.

What is so evil about all that?

Is this a standard that many of the Senators who oppose him can themselves meet?

Is "guilt by association" by being part of the Eisenhower Cabinet to be a political stigma against any man who was in government service in that era?

No, the criticism is basically political. It is highly partisan.

MUCH OF THE OPPOSITION TO BUTZ HAS BEEN
PROGRAMMED BY THE DEMOCRAT NATIONAL COMMITTEE

Much of the opposition to Earl Butz, it is clear, has been programmed directly from the offices of the Democrat National Committee. Certainly, many Senators have deep and profound beliefs held in sincerity. But look at some of the opposition. In the recent hearings, the first two witnesses were the President of the National Farmers Organization, Oren Lee Staley, and the President of the National Farmers Union, Tony DeChant. Tony DeChant and Oren Staley are both listed as of Tuesday, November 30, as members of the Policy Council of the Democrat National Committee. Tony DeChant is open about being an active

(MORE)

PAGE 2
SENATOR DOLE

registered Democrat, and while Oren Lee Staley tries to maintain his political neutrality, in Andrew County, Missouri, his home community, he is known as an active Democrat. If anything is clear, it is clear that these two skillful Democrat politicians, with an eye towards election day, 1972, are opposing Earl Butz for obvious political purposes.

Unfortunately, they are being portrayed by some as "non-partisans" simply looking out for the interests of farmers. These two gentlemen are Democrat partisans, and they should be inditified as such.

A man's professional life and reputation are now on the block in the United States Senate.

Let us hope the Senate will act in fairness and in decency -- not shame itself by embracing a base reason for rejecting an able and honest man.