



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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SENATOR DOLE SAYS PRESIDENT CARTER'S CUTS IN SHIPBUILDING WOULD WEAKEN U.S. DEFENSE

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that President Carter's decision to slash the Navy's shipbuilding program in half over the next four years would undermine the United States' strong defense posture.

In remarks made at the Virginia 1st District GOP Convention, Sen. Dole stated that the shipbuilding cut and the Administration's decision to drastically reduce the Navy budget "call into question President Carter's commitment to maintaining a United States defense posture second to none."

Sen. Dole vowed that Senate Republicans will work to defeat the cuts, saying, "We are not going to sit idly by while the Administration paves the way for Soviet naval superiority within the next decade."

"Why has the President chosen to ignore the advice of the Department of the Navy, the Secretary of the Navy and the Chief of Naval Operations on this critical national security issue?" he said.

"In this time of increased world tensions, I don't think we should turn our backs on the most flexible element of our national defense forces. Our Navy has maintained stability throughout the world. It has contained crises by providing a wide range of options for our country and remains a vital cog in our ability to deter and fight a global war if one should ever be thrust upon us by our enemies."