

BOB DOLE



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DOLE SAYS CARTER SHOULD ABANDON PRE-PRIMARY, 'GET TOUGH WITH IRAN' NEWS CONFERENCES

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today called on President Carter to "abandon the unworthy game of calling press conferences on Iran which clearly are timed to influence the domestic political process."

"In five days, Pennsylvania will hold its Presidential Primary, and once again, as was the case with the Wisconsin and Kansas Primaries, the President has called a hasty news conference, just as the polls show he may be in some trouble. What we see is an almost weekly ritual developing-- the pre-primary, 'get tough with Iran' news conference. Certainly no one would quarrel if these events produced concrete results. But the track record has been otherwise. The President has raised the expectations of the American electorate prior to the election day in a particular state, and then failed to produce," said Senator Dole.

Floor Statement

In a statement prepared for the Senate Floor, Dole said, "On April 7th, after 5 months of vacillation and delay which gained the United States nothing, President Carter finally broke relations with Iran and imposed full and formal economic sanctions in an effort to provide some real pressure on the militants and Khomeini to release our hostages. After waiting so long, this act had become largely symbolic. We must now move beyond symbolic action-- but not as an excuse to hold a pre-primary news conference. Let's impose the toughest, strictest, most complete economic embargo we can. The United States and its hostages shouldn't have to wait any longer. Let's not leave anything out this time, for later political use. Let's cut the pre-primary news conferences until we have something to show for them," said Dole.