

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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CARTER, BYRD 'SCARE TACTICS' WON'T SAVE OIL IMPORT FEE, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON-- Charging that the Administration and Democratic Majority Leader Robert Byrd (D.-W.V.) are "resorting to distortion and scare tactics in an attempt to save the sinking oil import fee," Senator Dole today said he doubts Congress will waiver in its determination to overturn the ten-cent per gallon gasoline tax.

"The Courts, the Congress and the American people are united in wanting to put an end to this ill-conceived measure. On Saturday Senator Byrd warned that this so-called conservation measure is needed to lower taxes and balance the budget. And last night, at the White House, President Carter told a group of Congressmen that failure to retain this fee would be an open invitation to OPEC to raise their crude oil prices," said Dole. "Both the President and my distinguished colleague from West Virginia would be hard pressed to prove either argument. The oil import fee raises taxes, it doesn't lower them. The best way to decrease the growing burden on the American taxpayer would be for the Congress to disapprove of this fee, as I have suggested in legislation before the Senate. And as for a Resolution of Disapproval signaling OPEC nations that they should raise their prices, the exact opposite would be true. If the Congress rejects this fee-- a fee which no logical person could argue is a conservation measure-- it will send a strong signal to OPEC nations that the American people have had it with higher gasoline prices," said Dole.

Misleading

"Frankly, I think the Administration is misleading itself if they believe they can put over an obviously flawed scheme like the oil import fee by browbeating the Congress with illogical threats. OPEC is already increasing oil prices-- and I don't see the Carter Administration doing anything about that. As for using the fee to cut taxes, that the oldest ploy in the world-- government taking money from one pocket and putting (some of it) back in the other. It's time to stop these silly arguments and move to vote on my Resolution," said Dole.

No Support

"There's no support for this proposal out in the country. My office recently received over 20,000 responses to a constituent questionnaire which included a question on the ten-cent per gallon tax. Only 7.4% of the respondents favored this measure. I would guess that Kansas would fairly reflect sentiment elsewhere in the nation," said Senator Dole.