

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
SATURDAY, AUGUST 2, 1980

CONTACT: BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8953

LATEST CABLE FLIP-FLOP SIMPLY REINFORCES VIEW THAT CARTER IS NOT PREPARED

WASHINGTON-- Neither the President nor the Special Subcommittee investigating Billy Carter's Libyan ties would benefit from a Presidential appearance next week, according to Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas).

Dole, a member of the Subcommittee, said the latest flip-flop by the White House, concerning diplomatic cables given to Billy Carter by the President, "once again shows that the President and his staff are confused and uncertain about White House involvement with Billy Carter and the Libyan government. It would seem to me that it would be in the best interest of everyone, and perhaps most especially in the President's interest, if caution were exercised at this time. Rather than rushing to 'tell all' on Monday-- and risking a spate of denials and clarifications throughout the rest of the week-- I would suggest that the President might do well to take his time until he is sure he has the definitive version," said Dole.

Committee Not Ready

As to speculation that the President might still wish to appear personally before the Subcommittee next week, Dole replied, "Quite frankly, we're not ready for him. You don't want to invite an honored guest into your home if you don't have a chair to seat him in. In the case of our Subcommittee, not only don't have have a chair, we haven't even laid the foundation yet. We don't have a full staff, we don't have an independent special counsel, we don't even have a preliminary investigation underway or an idea of what questions to ask."

Dole said the series of Administration flip-flops concerning the Billy Carter case "would be comic, if it weren't for the fact that we're talking, after all, about the White House. But I'm afraid consistency has not been a hallmark of this Administration."