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2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1980

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DOLE SAYS CARTER ECONOMIC PROPOSALS 'POORLY DESIGNED, POLITICALLY TIMED'

PRAIRIE VILLAGE, KS -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today called President Carter's economic package "poorly designed and obviously timed to fit the current political needs of the Carter-Mondale campaign."

Dole, who is chairman of the Reagan Economic Task Force and Ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, responded to the Administration's program at a news conference this afternoon at the Johnson County Republican Headqaurters in Prairie Village, Kansas.

"The Carter plan is a good example of the kind of attitudes and indecision that has created the mess we find ourselves in, " said Dole. "Instead of a growing, healthy private economy, the President offers billions more in government spending. Instead of an individual tax cut to offset the large, scheduled tax increases coming next year, he offers back-door general fund financing of the Social Security System. He has chosen to ignore individual tax rate reductions, yet offers a partially refundable tax credit for big business that will institutionalize corporate bailouts," said Dole.

Voice From the Past

"The bottom line is that President Carter's economic message for the 1980's reads like something scripted during the 1930's," added Dole.

"The most cynical aspect of the Carter plan is its timing. After fighting to stop constructive tax cut legislation in the Congress for months, he now announces his own plan three days before he formally begins his campaign for re-election in Independence, Mo. But I doubt that people in the "Show-me" state, or in Kansas or any other state, are going to be very impressed with the Carter plan. With 8 million people out of work, and inflation raging, we ought to be interested in economic recovery, not political rhetoric," Dole said.

His Tax Cut Too Small

"The President's individual tax cut proposal is too small. It will not come anywhere near offsetting the tax increases from Social Security hikes and taxflation expected next year. A family of four with \$15,000 in income will have a \$238 tax increase next year. If the Carter plan is enacted, tax relief will amount to a paltry \$80. In contrast, if the Finance Committee bill which was fashioned by Senator Long and myself and incorporates much of the Reagan-Dole-Conable tax package, were to be enacted it would provide that family with \$203 in relief," said Dole.

Most Disappointing

"The most disturbing thing about the Carter proposal is the Social Security Tax credit. This proposal has already been discarded -- by a bipartisan group -- in the Senate Finance Committee. It is a back-door, general fund financing of social security. It is a dangerous precedent, breaking the link between a worker's contribution to his retirement and establishing his (or her) benefits."

Dole added, "As for the partially refundable tax credit for losing businesses, it will merely institutionalize corporate bailouts. We should help out failing businesses by lifting the yoke of government regulation and by increasing investment incentives, not by giving them federal money."

Dole concluded by saying that he still believes the Finance Committee tax plan, passed by a 19-1 bipartisan vote, "represents the best hope for economic recovery. We need to rebuild our economy, not patch it erbert Hooven-style vemedies." th 11D W