

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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CONGRESS THWARTING TAX CUT NAYSAYERS

WASHINGTON --"In fashioning a tax cut bill of its own, Congress is circumventing the Carter Administration and some members of the Democratic leadership in the House and Senate who have attempted to thwart a tax cut at every step," Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today.

"The Senate Finance Committee ordered reported two weeks ago a tax cut bill that was approved by a vote of 19 to 1," Dole said. "Under the leadership of Senator Long, we fashioned a bill that responds to the economic needs of our nation in a responsible way. That bill has been praised throughout the country. It will increase incentives for savings, investment and productivity and serve to offset the enormous scheduled tax increase next year."

Dole, ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee, added, "The Administration and other tax cut opponents first said there is not enough time to fashion a bill. In four incredible days of markup, the Finance Committee -- Democrats and Republicans alike -- proved them wrong. When the national good is at stake, we can act quickly."

"Then, expressing their cynical attitude towards the Senate, Congress, and, I believe, our political process, they said we should not act because we are incapable of passing a bill which is not laden down with special interest provisions. Those of us on the Senate Finance Committee responded to this insult this week by agreeing to oppose all special interest amendments to this tax cut bill. In doing so, we exposed for all to see those who can not put the nation's good above politics and those who believe that self interest and special interest should be elevated above economic recovery."

"Let the record be clear. The Finance Committee is willing to support cloture and will ban together to oppose all special interest amendments to the tax cut bill. They will be supported, I believe, by most Republicans in the Senate. This bill will not become a Christmas tree. That strawman is torn down."

"The disciples of high taxes and stagnation tell us that if the Senate passes this bill we could set off 'inflationary expectations.' But they fail to explain why our passing the Finance Committee bill will encourage such expectations, but the President's recommended tax cut, with precisely the same effective date, will not encourage them. I suggest that the answer is grounded more in politics than in economics."

"Those who have fought against this bill also say that the American people do not want a tax cut. The short form of this argument is simply 'a tax cut will hurt your re-election chances.' I will not dwell on the irony of such an argument being made by those who sanctimoniously accuse others of political motivation. A recent survey by the Gallup organization for the Chamber of Commerce shows that our constituents support a tax cut. Further, it shows that they support a bill much like the one reported by the Finance Committee. For example, 57 percent of those contacted support an individual tax reduction of at least 10 percent this year, and 76 percent favor tax reductions over cuts in Social Security taxes. Fifty-five percent believe that people will work harder if taxes are cut."

"We need a tax cut and we need one now. If congressional leaders, acting I am sure under heavy pressure from the White House, won't bring the Finance Committee bill to the floor, I will offer it as an amendment to the first revenue measure the Senate considers. If we are not to have a tax cut bill passed before the election, I want every member of the Senate and, hopefully, every House member, to have an opportunity to cast a vote on the subject and to go home and accept the thanks of their constituents."