

DOLE SEEKS CLARIFICATION OF PRESIDENT'S POSITION ON ROYALTY OWNER RELIEF

EL DORADO, Kan. -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today sent a telegram to President Carter asking for a clarification of his position on permanent "windfall profit" tax relief for small royalty owners.

Recent news reports from Texas suggest that the President now supports permanent relief for small royalty owners.

"Throughout the year and a half that the windfall profit tax was considered in Congress, the Carter Administration strongly opposed efforts to reduce the tax burden on small royalty owners," Dole said. "I believe that if it had not been for this opposition, small royalty owners would not be taxed today.

"Last week, however, several key Carter spokesmen indicated that the Administration had reversed its opposition to the one-year, partial relief contained in the Dole-Boren amendment to the budget reconciliation bill. This amendment would provide a \$1,000 tax credit against royalty owners' 1980 windfall profit tax liability. These spokesmen were silent about the Administration's position on permanent relief for royalty owners.

"This week, President Carter suggested in Texas that he favored a complete exemption for small royalty owners. Although these statements suggested that the President may be willing to support some kind of permanent exemption for royalty owners, yesterday high-ranking Administration tax spokesmen indicated they had no knowledge of such a change in President Carter's position."

Following is the text of the Dole telegram to President Carter:

Mr. President:

I am sending this telegram to request a clarification of your position on relief for small royalty owners from the windfall profit tax. The letter on this subject from Secretary Miller and Secretary Duncan's statement make it quite clear that the Administration endorses the \$1,000, 1980-only, credit currently contained in the budget reconciliation bill in conference. Quotes from news stories of your recent trip through Louisiana and Texas suggest that you have now endorsed permanent relief for small royalty owners similar to that contained in the Dole-Boren bill (S. 2521). Since your Administration strongly opposed reducing the tax burden on small royalty owners during the entire consideration of the windfall profit tax, the news reports of your current position may not be accurate. However, if these reports are accurate, and I hope they are, your support would be welcome news to 33 senators who cosponsored this bill and 2 million royalty owners in America. Given the confusion on the issue, we would appreciate a clear statement of your position on S. 2521.

ATTN: GARY HADEN

Bob Dole
United States Senate