



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE CALLS FOR CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT OF ENERGY COMPROMISE

Washington, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole praised President Ford's willingness to compromise on the oil tariff issue and urged Congress to meet him halfway. On February 11, Dole first proposed a compromise that would permit the Administration's February 1st \$1 import tariff increase to stand while suspending until May 1 authority for the March 1st increase the President planned. Today the President took that action on his own authority in hopes of reaching a meaningful compromise.

Following is a statement made by Senator Dole concerning Ford's announcement of his action:

"Mr. President, it is the understanding of the junior Senator from Kansas that the President has made a compromise on the imported oil duty which will delay increasing the tariff to \$2 per barrel until May 1. I am pleased to hear that the President is making this compromise and support his willingness to seek an accommodation with Congress in this matter.

Follows Earlier Proposal

"On February 10, 1975, I suggested the need and possibility for a compromise on the oil import duty. The nature of that compromise, as described in the Record at that time, was to freeze the imported oil tariff at \$1 per barrel until May 1.

"On February 13, amendment #11 to H.R. 1767, which incorporated that compromise, was laid on the desk and ordered to be printed. For several days, support was sought for this compromise amendment. No member of the Senate Finance Committee was willing to lend any support to my compromise proposal.

"On February 17, 1975, the Finance Committee reported H.R. 1767 to the Senate. My supplemental views again spoke of the need for compromise and the need to move promptly toward a comprehensive program to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. Those remarks spoke of the time lost in a confrontation between the President and Congress, of the rhetorical support for compromise by a number of Senators but with an absence of any specific action, and of the urgency of finding solutions to our economic and energy problems.

"On February 19, when H.R. 1767 was passed by the Senate, there was again no support for freezing the \$1 per barrel tariff until May 1. The amendment was withdrawn without a roll call vote.

Support in Congress

"During the debate on H.R. 1767 on February 19, the senior Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. Pastore) was adamantly opposed to any compromise on the oil import duty, as he was when the compromise proposal was spoken of on February 11, as the Record shows. The junior Senator from Kansas now understands that the senior Senator from Rhode Island is willing to support a freeze of the \$1 per barrel tariff until May 1. The Senator from Kansas is

pleased to see the Senator from Rhode Island join in the compromise. In addition, the junior Senator from Kansas is pleased to note that his colleague from Delaware (Mr. Roth) is now able to support this compromise.

"It is also the understanding of the junior Senator from Kansas that the majority and minority leadership of Congress is now prepared to accept a compromise of freezing the tariff at \$1 until May 1. It is regrettable this compromise could not have been agreed on nearly one month ago when it was first considered so that we could have already spent that time in consideration of a comprehensive program to reduce our dependence on foreign oil. However, this new willingness to compromise is greatly beneficial and hopefully it is a sign that Congress can now move forward and work together with the President toward achieving independence in energy production and toward an end of our dependence on foreign oil.

"Perhaps the President was correct in waiting until now to offer this compromise solution. During earlier consideration of H.R. 1767, feelings on both sides of the aisle were too polarized to reach a middle ground. It only seems regrettable that we must have a confrontation between Congress and the President and use up the time involved in that confrontation before we can reach a compromise.

Problem of Confidence

"This Senator believes that the American people want to see some meaningful progress toward achieving energy independence and a reduction of our dependence on foreign oil. The American people would like to see something besides the great deal of rhetoric that has been stated during the more than 500 days since the oil embargo.

"There has been a great deal of testimony in the Senate Finance Committee and other Committees that indicates we need to move as promptly as possible to stop the drain of our national wealth going for oil imports. We need to stop the outflow of dollars that means a loss of jobs and loss of real income for the American people. That testimony also indicates we need to reduce the threat to our national security which any potential oil embargo would hold for our economy, since more than 35 percent of our petroleum consumption comes from imported oil.

"The energy proposals of the President and the tariff order he issued was an initiative that has stimulated a great deal of action in Congress. The views of this Senator were expressed in the Committee Report on H.R. 1767 that a compromise is needed to keep that initiative going. It is my hope the middle ground of freezing the import tariff at \$1 until May 1 will accomplish that purpose.

"It is also my hope the Congress will accept that middle ground. Otherwise, it is my concern that the American people will continue to lose confidence in the ability of their government to find meaningful solutions to their economic and energy problems.

"The dialogue that is and has been taking place on energy proposals is good. As stated before, the junior Senator from Kansas hopes acceptance of the compromise the President has made will be an indication that we can move forward together toward a meaningful and comprehensive program to reduce our dependence on foreign oil."