

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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ADMINISTRATION INFLATION POLICIES 'AN UTTER FAILURE' SAYS SEN. DOLE

WASHINGTON-- Administration attempts to control inflation have been "an utter, total failure," according to Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas).

Dole called today's announcement by the Labor Department that consumer prices rose by 1.1 percent during the month of September "convincing proof, for anyone who still doubted it, that this Administration has failed completely in its stated goal to bring inflation under control."

"What we're looking at now is a 13.2 percent annual inflation rate-- the highest since the immediate post-World War II years of 1946-47. For nine straight months the Administration has promised us that they would bring this rate down-- and for nine straight months they have failed," said Dole.

"Is it any wonder that the Democratic Party is casting around for new leadership? Is it any wonder that we Republicans are fighting so hard for our party's nomination? No Presidency can survive this kind of inflation. When I was running with Gerald Ford in 1976, the inflation rate was 4.8 percent. The Carter Administration has managed to throw away President Ford's hard-earned progress on the inflation front-- and I believe they've thrown away the Presidency as well," said Dole.

A Homeless Generation?

"Perhaps most disturbing," said Dole, "is the increase in housing costs. Housing costs went up by 1.2 percent-- and home financing costs went up a whopping 2.5 percent. Unless the government acts to ease the situation, young people in this nation are going to be unable to participate in the housing market. Indeed, we are in grave danger of seeing a situation where an entire generation will be denied what we have come to accept as a right in this country-- the right to own one's own home. A homeless generation will be an unhappy generation, perhaps even an angry generation. I have always believed that home ownership leads to stability-- and certainly the denial of home ownership could lead to instability in this country," said Dole.

"Today Citibank of New York raised its prime lending rate to 15 and one quarter, the highest in history. Thus we can expect they'll be no relief in financing costs when the October figures are released."

Dole continues to argue that the only way to fight inflation is to balance the federal budget, reform the regulatory process, overhaul tax policy, stimulate business growth, job creation and research and development, indexation of the federal income tax system, and an energy program that stresses production as well as conservation, as I outlined in my Detroit Economic Club speech recently," said Dole.

As for Senator Kennedy's candidacy, Dole remarked, "Electing Senator Kennedy as President would do for inflation what gasoline does for a fire-- he'd make Jimmy Carter look like Arthur Burns."