

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
BARBEQUE FOR SENATOR TOWER
DALLAS, TEXAS
SUNDAY, APRIL 30, 1978

IF CONGRESSIONAL ACTIONS LAST WEEK WERE ANY INDICATION CONGRESS' ATTITUDE TOWARD THE CARTER ENERGY PLAN -- AND I THINK THEY WERE -- THAT ENERGY PLAN IS TERMINALLY ILL, WITH NO HOPE FOR RECOVERY.

THE DEATH OF THE SO-CALLED "ENERGY PLAN" IS SIGN OF HOPE FOR THE COUNTRY, BECAUSE THE PRESIDENT'S ENERGY PROGRAM IS DECEIVING. IT WOULD RAISE THE PRICE OF ENERGY BY TAXING THE AMERICAN CONSUMER. WE WOULD PAY HIGHER PRICES FOR GASOLINE, FOR UTILITIES, AND PRACTICALLY EVERYTHING ELSE. AND ENERGY PRODUCERS -- NOT GOVERNMENT -- WOULD BE BLAMED FOR THE PRICE INCREASES.

FOR EXAMPLE, THE PRESIDENT IS CONSIDERING A \$5 IMPORT FEE ON CRUDE OIL. THIS UNILATERAL ACTION WOULD RAISE THE PRICE OF GASOLINE BY 3¢ A GALLON, AND RAISE OUR OVERALL INFLATION RATE BY 1.5 % IN THE FIRST YEAR. FORTUNATELY, THE SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE AGREED THIS ACTION WOULD BE DISASTROUS AND APPROVED A RESOLUTION I SPONSORED URGING THE PRESIDENT NOT TO IMPOSE THE IMPORT FEE.

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THE SO-CALLED "NATURAL GAS COMPROMISE" WHICH WAS HERALDED LAST WEEK BY THE PRESIDENT, HAS NOT BEEN AGREED TO BY THE ENERGY CONFEREES. IN FACT, THE COMPROMISE WORKED OUT BY ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF CONFEREES IN A SECRET MEETING, IS IN SERIOUS TROUBLE. THE "COMPROMISE" IS SO CONFUSING THAT THE STAFF HAS BEEN UNABLE TO DRAFT THE AGREEMENT -- NO ONE KNOWS FOR CERTAIN WHAT WAS ACTUALLY AGREED UPON IN THE SECRET MEETING -- APPARENTLY NOT EVEN THOSE WHO ATTENDED.

EVEN IF AN AGREEMENT ON THE GAS BILL IS REACHED, THE REAL TEST WILL COME WHEN CONFEREES TAKE UP THE CRUDE OIL EQUALIZATION TAX. THIS PROPOSAL HAS BEEN PASSED BY THE HOUSE, BUT IS COMPLETELY UNACCEPTABLE TO THE SENATE. IT WOULD TAX DOMESTICALLY PRODUCED OIL UP TO WORLD PRICE. THIS IS INFLATIONARY AND EXPENSIVE. IF ENACTED, THE CRUDE OIL EQUALIZATION TAX WOULD COST AMERICANS \$47. TO SAVE A SINGLE BARREL OF OIL.

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CONGRESS HAS, HOWEVER, AGREED ON THREE PROVISIONS OF THE ENERGY PACKAGE -- COAL CONVERSION; ENERGY CONSERVATION; AND UTILITY REGULATION. BUT THE ADMINISTRATION IS PREVENTING THESE CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS FROM BECOMING LAW -- PREFERRING TO WAIT FOR THE "PACKAGE" TO BE COMPLETED. WELL, THAT PACKAGE -- AT LEAST AS ENVISIONED BY PRESIDENT CARTER -- IS NEVER GOING TO BE COMPLETE. I URGE THE PRESIDENT TO GO AHEAD AND APPROVE THESE AGREEMENTS. AND I CHALLENGE THE PRESIDENT TO PRESENT A REAL ENERGY PACKAGE -- NOT JUST A TAX PACKAGE -- AS HE PROMISED THE GOVERNORS OF TEXAS, LOUISIANA AND OKLAHOMA.