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Description

President Jimmy Carter was seeking to add ten cents a gallon to the price of imported oil, in order to spur energy conservation. The veto is overridden in the House and would soon be overridden in the Senate, with the support of many Democrats.

Keywords

President, Jimmy Carter, Congress, Veto, Vetoes, Override, Overridden, Bill, Legislation, Measure, Oil, Import, Fee, Petroleum, Foreign, Energy, Conservation, Senate, House of Representatives, Speaker, Tip O'Neill, Representative, Al Ullman, Barber Conable, Legislative, Executive, Branch, Presidency

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Transcript
President Carter's Oil Import Bill Veto Overridden by House

TOM BROKAW, anchor:
President Carter’s oil import fee is about as popular in Congress as a Kennedy at a Carter family reunion. Late yesterday, the president vetoed a bill killing the administration plans to add ten cents a gallon to imported oil, the president still wants that. So, when that veto was rushed to the House of Representatives, Congress was ready. Here’s Andrea Mitchell.

ANDREA MITCHELL reporting:
The president had promised to veto the repeal of his oil import fee, and he did.

President JIMMY CARTER: Unintelligible my conviction, that we must conserve energy, I am vetoing the legislation sent to me today by the Congress.

MITCHELL: Two hours later, the veto message arrived in the House of Representatives.

Representative TIP O’NEILL: Unintelligible the motion.

Unidentified man 1: Mr. Speaker, a message from the president of the United States.

Unidentified man 2: Mr. Speaker…

Rep. O’NEILL: Mr. Secretary.

Unidentified man 1: Go ahead.

Unidentified man 2: I am directed by the president of the United States to deliver to the House of Representatives a message in writing.

MITCHELL: It was the first of 22 Carter vetoes that Congress seemed determined, in fact eager, to overturn. So eager that members made no speeches.

Representative AL ULLMAN: We’ve talked this matter to death. I would like, I would like only to yield one minute to my distinguished minority colleague on the committee, Mr. Conable.

Representative BARBER CONABLE: I thank the chairman for yielding to me, I do not wish to use my entire minute. I think he has debated the issue, I think he has debated the issue sufficiently.
MITCHELL: The president lost overwhelmingly, defeated by a House of his own party. The Senate will take up the president’s veto message this morning. Yesterday the president and the vice president were telephoning senators trying to change a few minds, but senate leaders still predict the Senate will follow the House, and Jimmy Carter will have lost a veto fight with Congress for the first time. Andrea Mitchell, NBC News, at the Capitol.