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Congress of the United States
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FOR RELEASE, MONDAY, MAY 31

The following is the text of a letter from Congressman Bob Dole to Under Secretary of State, Thomas Mann relating to oil imports from Venezuela.

May 29, 1965

The Honorable Thomas C. Mann
Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs
2201 "C" Street
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am greatly concerned over the matter of excessive imports of foreign oil and the adverse impact these imports are having on the United States as a whole and my state of Kansas in particular.

The petroleum industry in Kansas has been going down hill for the past ten years during which time total imports of foreign oil have increased 115 percent.

We are finding and producing less oil in Kansas simply because we are drilling 22 percent less wildcat wells today than we did in 1956. We are receiving 15 cents per barrel less for our oil today than we did in 1957. On the other hand, the cost of drilling and completing a well has gone up 12 percent. At this rate, Kansas which ten years ago was the fifth largest state in oil production will be out of the oil producing business in the not-too-distant future. Signs of depressed oil activity in Kansas are widespread and while excessive oil imports may not be the entire cause of our plight, it certainly contributes heavily to these deteriorating conditions.

In our efforts to strengthen the Mandatory Oil Import Program, I continue to be greatly alarmed to find that the Department of State virtually vetoes any attempts by our government to reduce oil imports coming from the Caribbean area, more particularly from Venezuela.

This is shocking to say the least; however, it appears this area is considered by the State Department to be untouchable due to international political implications.

In view of the recent negative attitude Venezuela has taken toward the United States in our attempts to stabilize conditions in the Dominican Republic, it would appear that this nation's "oil diplomacy" policy in the Caribbean was of little or no help.

I also note that while we keep buying more than a billion dollars worth of oil each year from Venezuela, it has reduced its purchases in the United States. Venezuelan purchases at one time amounted to about a billion dollars a year but are now less than \$600 million, a reduction in purchases here of about 40 percent.

Further, I note that since 1959, the year the Mandatory Oil Import Program came into being, Venezuela has enjoyed a 22 percent growth in its oil production which is about twice the growth we have had in oil production in the United States during this period.

In view of all these circumstances, I respectfully urge you to use your good offices to change the hard line adopted by the Department of State against any reduction in the amount of oil imported from Venezuela.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE, M.C.