



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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Joe Reppert—Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1973

WASHINGTON D.C.--Senator Bob Dole and Congressman Keith Sebelius announced today the Office of Oil and Gas has approved a revision of the diesel oil distribution program designed to give farmers and ranchers priority delivery.

The new 60-day program goes into effect Monday and lists three equal categories of preferential users: (1) those engaged in the production of oil and gas; (2) operators of farm and ranch equipment essential to the planting, growth, or harvesting of crops and livestock; (3) operators of mass transit facilities.

Senator Dole pointed out that the new program would be implemented through local ASCS offices. "This is something I have urged from the start. County ASCS officials have had experience with farm fuel problems. The last thing we need is to set up still another bureaucracy to administer this program," Dole said, "When it is obvious that the Regional Office of Oil and Gas and the State office already have more on their hands than they can deal with."

Both Dole and Sebelius reported many complaints from farmers unable to get prompt satisfactory answers from these offices.

The program was ordered after hearings by the House Agriculture Committee in which Congressman Sebelius urged changes in the mandatory distillate fuels allocation program which went into effect Nov. 1. The program based a farmers' allocation on the amount of diesel he had used in the corresponding month of 1972.

"Bad weather in Kansas and in the plains brought farm activity to a halt and many farmers had little or no record of fuel purchases to use as a base. Hopefully, this program will enable farmers who need diesel to continue harvesting and fall plowing activities," he said.

Senator Dole and Congressman Sebelius said farmers should take advantage of the 60-day time period to petition for the amount of fuel they will need this year over and above their allocation based on last year's usage.

SENATOR BOB DOLE

PRESS RELEASE

Dole-Schubert - diesel oil distr

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