



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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The Office of Senator Bob Dole today urged Governor Docking to tell the whole story regarding his visit to Washington on Monday. The announcement, made through a spokesman, came in response to a press release from the Governor's office yesterday charging that Dole had not actively supported legislation insuring fairness in fuel allocation programs. Ironically, the spokesman said, the Governor's release was issued a day after Dole secured Senate passage of such legislation as an amendment to the Daylight Savings Time Bill. The Dole Amendment was passed unanimously by the Senate, and 12 Senators -- 7 Republicans and 5 Democrats joined as cosponsors of the bill during floor debate.

Dole had previously discussed such legislation with President Nixon and with William Simon, the designated chief of the new Federal Energy Administration, during Dole's work to gain administrative relief for general aviation, the spokesman said. Governor Docking gave no evidence of even being aware of such legislation until Thursday, November 29, when he called Washington, although Docking's spokesman had said he had supported it for more than a week. Dole was never opposed to properly drafted legislation, but felt it was most important to get immediate administrative relief so that the general aviation employees in Wichita could know where they stood.

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The spokesman added that Dole had expressed serious reservations about the proposed language of earlier amendments drafted in the House and which the Governor presumably was supporting.

While he was working to obtain administrative relief, Dole had his staff working on an improved amendment which would insure fair treatment for general aviation, but which would not prevent emergency needs from being met in other areas of the economy.

In moving to meet the needs of Wichita and of general aviation, it was also necessary to consider possible future emergency demands for fuel from hospitals, farmers, homeowners, and others who may need it on a priority basis.

The spokesman said that Dole was perplexed by the Governor's refusal to join him and the members of the Wichita delegation for a meeting with Vice President-designate, Gerald Ford, and for a luncheon in the Senate Dining Room. These two sessions were important to the Senator's efforts to solve the problem, but the Governor refused; although other members of the delegation from Wichita -- Republicans and Democrats -- did attend.

Dole was said to be pleased that he had been able to obtain relief both administratively and through the legislative process. "Let's face it", the spokesman said, "the Governor was seeking publicity and Senator Dole was seeking a solution -- fortunately, the Senator's efforts were successful."