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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

January 28, 1974

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE INTRODUCING LEGISLATION TO 'REPEAL WINTER DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

The Year-Round Daylight Saving Time Act (Public Law 93-182, enacted during the first session of the 93d Congress) is a classic example of the Congress legislating blindfolded.

Passed with only brief hearings and little in-depth study, there was no solid, factual evidence presented that having school children, their parents and most of the working world groping around for an extra hour in winter morning darkness would do anything to save energy. A number of experts -- both in and out of Congress -- weighed in with their profound opinions that winter daylight time might save as much as 2% of our total energy requirements. But they did not present any real evidence -- at least to my satisfaction -- that having to turn on more lights in the morning and run furnaces an extra hour earlier during the coldest part of the day was going to save anything.

OPPOSITION TO THE BILL

In fact, they really admitted that they did not have any idea of the effects of winter daylight time by writing into the Bill a two-year study to tell us, after the fact, what really happened.

Therefore, I voted against the bill, not because I am against programs to conserve energy, but because it just did not seem that a convincing case had been made for the law's effectiveness.

TRAGIC EFFECTS

The first reports on the law's effects are at best inconclusive in terms of energy saved. But unfortunately, the law's effects are tragic in terms of injuries and deaths -- particularly of school children in the early morning hours.

A preliminary check with the Kansas City Power and Light Company revealed little early evidence that Winter Daylight Savings Time had had any appreciable effect. However, other conservation measures had apparently brought about a 5.7% drop in electric power requirements.

After spending the first three weeks of winter daylight time in Kansas, I became more convinced than ever that its hardships, inconvenience and real hazards are too great to justify its continuation.

Therefore, I am introducing a bill to repeal winter daylight saving time and undo what Congress never should have done in its burst of haste and poorly-considered action.

RESTORE NATION TO PREVIOUS STATUS

This bill would end winter daylight time on the first Sunday after its enactment and restore the Nation to the position it was in before the law was passed. We will still have daylight saving time during the summer when adequate evidence exists that it does in fact save significant amounts of energy.

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The text of the bill is as follows: That notwithstanding the provisions of section 7 of the Emergency Daylight Saving Time Energy Conservation Act of 1973 such Act shall terminate at 2 o'clock antemeridian on the first Sunday which occurs after the date of enactment of this Act.

Cosponsored by Mr. Cook, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Bartlett, Mr. Talmadge, Mr. Helms, Mr. McGovern and Mr. Mansfield.