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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE SEES SIGNS OF SERIOUS ENERGY EFFORT

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Commenting on the Senate's 57-37 vote to require additional work on the Energy Emergency Act, Senator Bob Dole said "perhaps this action indicates that the Senate is ready to get serious on solving energy problems."

"By directing Senate and House conferees to come up with a better bill, the Senate may have demonstrated that it is ready to settle down to work and put aside political maneuvering and demagoguery on energy."

In addition to environmental considerations, a major defect identified by Senator Dole was a House-passed section that dealt with so-called "windfall profits." "This section is one of the most unwise and ineffective pieces of legislation to come before the Senate," Dole said during floor debate on the bill. "And this is all the more unfortunate, because it claims to deal with a very serious and deep concern of the American people."

"In fact, however, it only plays on the emotions of the people and if enacted would frustrate their legitimate expectations that Congress should effectively deal with the problem of profiteering in the energy crisis. This section would not be effective in blocking unfair economic advantages, and it poses the more dangerous prospect that it would seriously hamper our energy-sufficiency efforts."

"It would not be effective because it has no teeth, no real ability to combat the problem of profiteering. It would not even become effective until January 1, 1975. In the second place, it is so broad in its terms and application that in addition to the 'major oil companies' it would cover every royalty owner, every local jobber, every corner service station operator, and who-knows who else in the nation."

"Of course, steps must be taken to assure the average American that his sacrifices are going to contribute to the national cause and not just fatten some big oil company's profits. Every citizen has a right to expect this, and Congress has an obligation to see that those expectations are met."

"I look forward to participating in February in the full-scale Finance Committee study of this field. I feel we must move with utmost dispatch to establish the protection needed to combat energy crisis profiteering and in a way which will contribute to -- not detract from -- the overall energy program."