



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE ASKS IMMEDIATE IRS INVESTIGATION OF PROPANE PRICING

ELLSWORTH, KS. -- Saying he had found propane prices per gallon varying from a low of 17 cents to a high of as much as 39 cents during his travels through Kansas, Senator Bob Dole today called for an immediate investigation by Internal Revenue Service agents. Dole requested IRS Commissioner, Donald C. Alexander, to order his agents immediately to begin inquiries in Kansas to determine whether the price variations had resulted from any illegal practices.

"Kansans who last year may have had to pay less than fifty dollars a month for the propane they needed to heat their homes, are today finding their monthly bills for the same product running as much as twice or even three times that amount," Dole said. "If the price rises were uniform, the situation might at least be understandable," Dole added, "but with some going for less than 20 cents per gallon, and some going for twice that, this situation demands an immediate and thorough investigation."

Dole has previously requested a roll-back of propane prices from the Federal Energy Office.

Following is the text of Dole's telegram to the IRS:

In my travels this month throughout the State of Kansas, I have been shocked to find wide and as yet unexplained variations in the prices being charged for propane. Since propane is in heavy use by Kansas' rural homeowners for heating purposes, and is also used widely in agriculture, popular concern is legitimate and widespread. I have personally learned of outrageous price variations ranging from 17 cents per gallon to a high of 39 cents per gallon. In some cases, homeowners who paid less than \$50 a month last year for propane are faced this year with bills amounting to well over \$100 per month.

I believe this situation warrants immediate investigation by IRS agents and ask that such action be started at once, commencing today.