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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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UP TO \$10 MILLION IN REFUNDS TO KANSANS

RUSSELL, KANSAS--"Kansans may receive several million dollars in refunds on some propane prices charged last winter," Senator Bob Dole said today. "The Federal Energy Office has advised me that when investigations are completed, the refund figures could possibly be as high as \$10 million in Kansas."

Dole had requested the Federal Energy Office and the Internal Revenue Service to investigate propane pricing several months ago, concentrating particularly on abuses by speculators. The refund figures were given to Dole in the second interim report he has received on the matter.

"The blame for price gouging should fall squarely on the minority who were involved in improper pricing," Dole said. "Thousands of Kansans, including senior citizens and those on fixed incomes, were especially hurt by heating bills which more than doubled in many cases, and every penny which was not authorized under the pricing regulations should be refunded to them. Many other propane dealers suffered a loss of revenue in an effort to supply their customers who were depending on propane during the winter months."

Dole was advised that "remedial orders" to require price rollbacks and refunds totalling over \$10 million have already been issued in other states. Dole also said that orders to require refunds and rollbacks in Kansas are being prepared as rapidly as evidence is uncovered, although when court action is involved a period of several months may be necessary. The actions are being taken under anti-trust laws and pricing regulations. Specifics on suspected violations cannot be made public at this time because to do so might prejudice subsequent legal action against suspected price regulation violations.