



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE CAUTIONS DOCTORS AS CONTROLS END

TOPEKA.— Senator Bob Dole today joined the President of the American Medical Association in urging doctors to avoid excessive fee increases following the end of wage-price controls.

In remarks prepared for delivery to the Sunday meeting of the Kansas Medical Society Senator Dole said, "I seriously doubt that American doctors have any desire to be treated like the big oil companies by Congress and the news media over their profits and prices. So the advice of AMA President Dr. Richard Palmer for doctors, to avoid impulsive actions on fees, strikes me as highly appropriate for the profession and squarely in keeping with the national interest of assuring quality medical care in America.

"The medical profession would be a most unfortunate choice as a whipping boy for the burdens of inflation. Exposure to such charges and publicity could only hinder responsible efforts to improve health care. And it would provide additional ammunition for those who want to tighten the heavy grip of government regulation, control and authority within the health professions.

"But there are those in Washington and elsewhere who would like nothing better than an excuse to go after the medical profession, hammer and tongs, to build themselves a following on the evening newscasts and in the headlines.

"I do not believe the health care interests of the American people would be at all well served by an emotionalized witch hunt within the medical and health communities. In fact such a happening would be assure-fire prescription for disaster.

"So I would just add my voice to that of Doctor Palmer in urging price-restraint following the removal of controls on the health professions. It will be in everyone's best interests over the long run."

Senator Dole, a Member of the Senate Finance Committee, also said "we are more and more likely to see the enactment of a National Health Insurance Law this year." And to expedite consideration of this legislation in the Senate, the Finance Committee will take the unusual step of holding its hearings prior to passage of a House bill. These hearings will begin on May 21, and provided there are no unexpected delays there should be ample time to obtain full Congressional approval before adjournment.

"I have said that Congress, faced with the two extreme courses of doing nothing or nationalizing the entire health business, will pick a middle ground for taking positive action to build on the good points of today's system, while seeking to devise solutions for some of its most serious defects. I believe this prediction may come true."