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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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SAWHILL ANSWERS DOLE'S QUESTIONS

GARDEN CITY, KANSAS--Senator Bob Dole was assured today by John C. Sawhill, Federal Energy Administrator designate, that the FEA would "order emergency (harvest fuel) supplies into Kansas and other Mid-Western States if we find that spot shortages exist."

Dole received this and other answers in response to written questions he had submitted yesterday to Sawhill. In the letter accompanying his questions Dole told Sawhill that he felt it necessary that FEA make substantial improvements in their record. "Thus," Dole wrote, "I would appreciate receiving your response to the attached questions prior to the Senate vote on confirmation of your nomination to be FEA Administrator."

Dole said oil field equipment, "particularly pipe casing, continues to be in short supply for independent drillers in Kansas." He asked Sawhill how FEA had assisted Kansans in finding the equipment to expand exploration. Sawhill replied, "We have convened a meeting of the major producers of pipe casing and have been given assurances of expanded production. We have also worked with independent drillers in Kansas and helped when they have had problems in obtaining adequate supplies."

In response to Dole's question concerning how much participation State governments will have in future FEA programs, Sawhill said, "We intend to solicit comments from State governments every time we make any major changes in our regulations... The control retained by FEA over allocations will vary for different fuels, but it is our intent to involve the States to the maximum extent possible."

"FEA will continue to monitor the operation of the propane industry," Sawhill replied to Dole's question asking what FEA is doing to hold down the price of propane. Sawhill added, "We agree that FEA must focus close attention to the propane situation and, for that reason, have commissioned a detailed report on future supply and demand so that we will be in a better position to avoid the problems that developed within the industry last winter."