



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE ACTS ON NATURAL GAS PROBLEMS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today announced that a representative of the Federal Power Commission will attend a meeting with about 60 farmers in Stanton County on the need for natural gas for irrigation purposes. The meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 31st, and will be held at 9:00^{AM} in the Co-Op basement. (Johnson City, Ks)

In a letter to the Chairman of the Federal Power Commission, John Nassikas yesterday, Dole said, "natural gas is vital to agriculture as a fuel for irrigation purposes and grain drying. Unavailability of natural gas to farmers is bound to have an adverse impact on increased food productivity which is so important to preventing food shortages and holding down inflation."

Reacting promptly to Dole's request, the FPC assigned a representative to attend the meeting.

Farmers in Kansas have had numerous problems in recent years in obtaining approval for hookups to natural gas lines for irrigation purposes. Dole pointed out that the situation is especially ironic since most farms in Southwest Kansas are physically located in the gas field area but are not permitted to use the gas itself. In addition, farmers have had problems with gas pressure varying from 80 pounds down to as low as 4 pounds in a few hours, which has had disastrous effects on irrigation motors. The Senator expressed hope that action by the FPC will provide an example which may be followed in future natural gas problems.