



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 1974

CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON

WICHITA AREA ENERGY PROBLEMS AIRED

Washington, D.C. -- Preliminary meetings with seven federal agencies arranged by Senators Bob Dole and James Pearson and Congressman Garner Shriver concerning energy problems of Wichita and fourteen surrounding counties were completed today.

Ken Cox, Chairman of the Economic Development Committee in Wichita, said "I am encouraged by the attitude and assistance offered by the seven agencies contacted on our behalf by Senators Dole and Pearson and Congressman Shriver. Our Congressional delegation has been of tremendous assistance to the City of Wichita and surrounding area in helping us toward a solution of our energy problems in the short range of coming months and address our problems in coming years."

"The energy problems of Wichita and the surrounding area are of great concern to myself and my colleagues, and we are especially concerned about assisting Wichita and the south central area in obtaining an adequate supply of energy," Dole said, reflecting the comments of Pearson and Shriver. Dole added that the unavailability of natural gas to Wichita from the surrounding area is a great irony and that a change in the existing law on natural gas must be made by some form of deregulation, such as he voted for last year.

The problem has been a combination of the stifling effect of interstate gas laws and lack of intrastate production in Kansas. Price regulations on interstate has have kept prices artificially low, discouraging expansion of production by natural gas companies. Kansas gas generally goes to interstate sales leaving an inadequate amount of intrastate gas to satisfy the needs of Wichita and south central Kansas.

The result is that Wichita, south central counties and other areas have an inadequate supply of gas while gas from fields located under and around Wichita goes to supply urban areas in the northern and eastern parts of the country. Dole indicated that this situation is unacceptable and must be resolved by deregulation of natural gas and by developing alternate sources of fuel.