



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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AMERICANS WON'T ACCEPT TAX LEGISLATION AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR ENERGY POLICY, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that "the American people will not accept a new tax as a substitute for energy policy." He advised that Congressional conferees meeting on the President's energy tax program should leave the President's program behind and move on to more constructive legislation.

Dole, a conferee and a strong opponent of the Crude Oil Equalization Tax (COET), said, "It has been seven months since the tax conference last met, and in that time nothing has transpired that makes COET any more acceptable. This bill is a cruel hoax designed to punish the American consumer. COET would raise \$120 billion in new taxes and create no prospect of moving toward energy independence.

"There is no question that Congress should enact positive energy legislation. Americans will support an honest and fair energy program. But what we have here is a tax program.

"If enacted, COET would be one of the largest peacetime taxes imposed in the history of this country. Neither during the hearings in the Senate Finance Committee, nor during the executive sessions, nor on the Senate floor, was there a kind word for COET. The tax has been opposed by such diverse groups as the AFL-CIO, the Chamber of Commerce, the NAACP and the Consumer Federation of America. It can't be considered an efficient method to save energy.

"Americans believe we need to have a sound energy policy. But last month Proposition 13 sent a loud message to Congress. That message was that the American people won't accept new taxes."