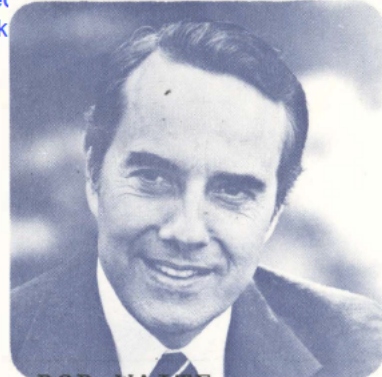


# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT:

BOB WAITE

(202) 224 8953

## DOLE PLEASED SPR INCLUDED IN SYN FUELS REPORT

WASHINGTON -- Senator Dole (R.-Kansas) today said he believes it is "vitally important" that the Conference Report on the Synthetic Fuels Bill included a provision for filling the Strategic Petroleum Reserve (SPR).

According to Senator Dole, "the inclusion of this provision is a vital first step in getting this nation on the road to energy independence."

Dole added that, "Over seven months have passed since the Senate acted on this very important piece of energy legislation. During the debate on S. 932 I tried to make the point that in all of the flurry with which we debated the Synfuels Bill, we were leaving out one very vital link in our energy/national security chain. For that reason I was joined by the distinguished Senator from New Jersey, Mr. Bradley, in offering an amendment that would require the President to resume filling our Strategic Petroleum Reserve at the average daily rate of 100,000 barrels," said Dole.

"I will not retrace the various steps taken by myself and Senator Bradley as we attempted to restore the SPR Program to its proper place on our list of national priorities. There have been many votes taken on this issue, and the Senate has engaged in very heated and expanded debate on our entire Strategic Reserve Policy. I would, however, like to say that perhaps the most important vote which occurred on this issue was taken November 8, 1979. It was on that day that the Senate adopted the Dole-Bradley Amendment and put this administration on notice that we were fed up with their poor excuses and delaying tactics concerning the filling of our petroleum reserve.

"The SPR issue is not a partisan one. It cuts across both ideological and party lines. This widespread and diverse support for the SPR build-up was evidenced by the various votes taken on the first budget resolution dealing with restoring funds for the program. Liberal, moderate, and conservative Senators joined in the various efforts taken by myself and Senator Bradley to restore the much needed funding slashed from the budget in the name of holding the line on federal spending. As I stated during the debate on the several amendments to restore funding, no one more than the Senator from Kansas wants to see federal spending held down, but the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is a matter of national security. We must not be penny wise and pound foolish," said Dole.

"Frank Zarb, a former Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration during the Ford presidency, recently stated that "The A-1 priority of the U.S. must be to build up our strategic oil reserve." Mr. Zarb, as REA Administrator, submitted a plan establishing such a reserve to the Congress in 1976. During this time, OPEC applied continued pressure on the Ford Administration to not build our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Despite this pressure, the Ford Administration proceeded to submit a formal SPR plan, and began implementing the plan by contracting with the Army Corps of Engineers to construct oil reserve storage facilities in Texas and Louisiana," added Dole.

"If President Ford's plan to build our SPR had continued to be carried out under the Carter Administration, our reserve would today have contained at least 300 million barrels, well on the way to the 1 billion

goal. But, President Carter has apparently acquiesced to OPEC's pressure. Faced with a weak administration on retreat everywhere, OPEC's sheiks pressed their advantage. They have succeeded in getting the U.S. to violate the very provisions of the Energy Policy and Conservation Act of 1975, P.L. 94-163, by ceasing to build up this reserve as of November 1978," said Dole.

#### DANGEROUS DEPENDENTS ON FOREIGN OIL

"However much we talk of building a Synthetic Fuels Program, however much we may talk about the need for "energy conservation," we cannot escape the fact that throughout the 1980's we will be dangerously dependent on foreign oil. So long as we are so dependent, it is imperative that we build up a viable Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Common prudence requires that we build up this reserve in order to have a cushion in the event of an oil embargo, or a temporary interruption to our supply of foreign oil. We need only remember the consequences of the Iranian shutdown to see the need for such a back-up. Indeed, we need and must possess an oil reserve if we are to remain independent from foreign domination and continue strong in our geo-political position," said Dole.

"If our OPEC oil supplies are shut off for any reason, such as a deliberate embargo or an unforeseeable circumstance, such as internal "revolution" or an act of terrorism aimed at the supply routes, our economy will be devastated beyond belief. We need a viable SPR to act as a cushion in such circumstances," added Dole.

"I hope the Congress will act today and the President will sign this important legislation into law," Dole said.