



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE ADVOCATES "LAST CHANCE" EFFORT ON ENERGY COMPROMISE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Citing the impasse between Congress and the White House on energy legislation, Senator Bob Dole proposed Friday that Congress agree to a final, forty-five day extension of the Energy Allocation Act of 1975.

"It's our last chance to avoid the sterile choice we are faced with at present," Dole said. "As matters stand right now," he added, "we can go cold turkey on immediate decontrol, or we can continue regulations for another six months." Dole said the latter alternative would amount to nothing more than another in "a series of Congressional decisions not to decide."

In a statement on the Senate floor, Dole recounted the history of delay and in-decision in Congress on energy legislation and added up for his colleagues what he called the "cost of doing nothing" to expand domestic energy production. They include lost jobs, deteriorating balance of payments, and perhaps worst of all "the loss of valuable time which can never be recouped" in the struggle to establish energy independence.

Dole's proposal for a one time extension of the Act until October 15th would allow time, he said, "for Congress finally to address the issue head-on and positively." He called for "full-time focus" by the Senate on energy legislation over the next forty-five days and cautioned his colleagues that "if after all the time and study we have already given to energy, we can't agree on a responsible proposal, then we shouldn't any longer wonder why the polls show Congress to be held in such low popular esteem."