

NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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STATEMENT OF SEN. BOB DOLE ON ENERGY

The President is asking the American people to use less energy and to dig deeper in their pockets to pay for it. If taxes on crude oil and on gasoline are to reduce what we consume, prices would go much higher than they are now -- well over a dollar a gallon for gasoline. This would require more direct government involvement in managing the production and distribution of energy. This would add to the burden on an already over-taxed middle-income America. The rebate feature of the plan would transfer income in ways that cannot yet be fully understood. What is clear is that families who must use their cars in their daily lives -- such as those in suburban communities and in rural areas -- would come out on the short end.

Mr. Carter gives relatively little attention to the other side of the energy problem, which is the opportunities for making more petroleum and other sources of energy available. The American people are being asked to pay more for what they get -- but there is little economic incentive for producers to make the investments that might result in more production.