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DOLE SAYS CARTER ENERGY PLAN "OUT OF GAS"

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole said today that the Carter Administration's energy package has "run out of gas" and called on President Carter to "retreat, regroup, reconsider and resubmit a new and balanced energy plan after consultation with Congress."

Dole stated that the recent action by the House Ways and Means Committee in defeating significant portions of the Carter package clearly demonstrates "the strong resistance in Congress to punish the consumer for shortcomings in government policies." Referring to the Administration's unbalanced program that relies heavily on conservation without sufficient attention to increase in supply, Dole said, "President Carter should review such campaign promises as deregulating natural gas -- a promise he has apparently forgotten."

Dole added that Congress is anxious to cooperate with the Administration in developing a comprehensive and responsible national energy program. "Perhaps the President should withdraw the remnants of his current package and submit a new one that encourages conservation and provides incentives for increased production. Without a strong commitment to increasing domestic production," Dole said, "we cannot hope to reverse the unhealthy trend toward increased dependence on foreign energy sources."