



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE SAYS INCREASED U.S. OIL PRODUCTION COULD HAVE SOFTENED PENDING GAS CRUNCH

KEENE, N.H. -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that an increased emphasis on U.S. oil production could have helped avert what now seems to be an irreversible slide toward fuel allocation in the wake of the political chaos in Iran.

"It has been nearly two years since the Administration unleashed its energy program, calling its effort the moral equivalent of war," Dole said. "Yet in spite of Administration efforts to lessen our dependence on foreign oil, we are once again facing a rationing and allocation scheme. It may take the halting of the half-billion barrels of oil we receive daily from Iran to awaken the Administration to the necessity of increasing our domestic oil production.

"I find it incredible that the President has chosen to virtually ignore this crucial aspect of our energy problem. What two years ago was touted as the moral equivalent of war this year was reduced to a paltry 12 words in the State of the Union message.

"The policies that have been suggested by some members of Congress and by the Department of Energy perpetuate the failures of the past, and show a startling lack of insight about the workings of our energy industry.

"Instead of wasting the last two years, the Administration should have encouraged domestic production to replace foreign imports. If we don't release the shackles from the energy industry in this country, Americans can expect to face long lines at the gas pumps for some time to come."