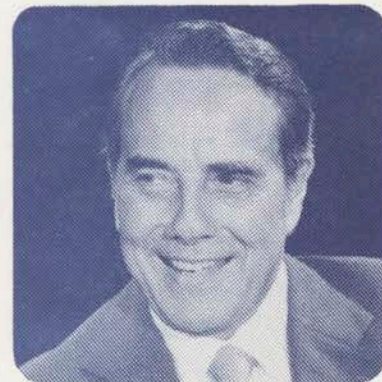


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE SAYS NO TO ENERGY DEPARTMENT'S EAST COAST WASTE DUMP SEARCH

WASHINGTON -- IN A LETTER TO ENERGY SECRETARY JOHN HERRINGTON, SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS) SAID TODAY THAT THE DEPARTMENT SHOULD CEASE ITS CURRENT SEARCH FOR A HIGH LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DUMP ON THE EAST COAST.

WITH LEGISLATION PENDING BEFORE CONGRESS THAT WOULD TERMINATE ANY SUCH WASTE SITE -- AND EVIDENCE SHOWING THAT THE VOLUME OF NUCLEAR WASTE MATERIALS IS DROPPING -- DOLE TOLD HERRINGTON THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO REASON FOR SPENDING ANY MORE TAXPAYER DOLLARS ON AN UNNECESSARY SEARCH.

STATES THAT ARE BEING LOOKED AT FOR A POSSIBLE HIGH-LEVEL WASTE DUMP ARE: NORTH CAROLINA, NEW HAMPSHIRE, MINNESOTA, GEORGIA, MAINE AND WISCONSIN. ACCORDING TO DOLE, THE DEPARTMENT COULD BE SPENDING AS MUCH AS \$2 BILLION FOR EACH OF THREE WASTE SITE APPRAISALS IN THE EAST.

THE DEPARTMENT IS EXPECTED TO TELL THE NINTH CIRCUIT COURT OF APPEALS TOMORROW THAT IT WILL REINSTITUTE ITS SEARCH FOR AN EASTERN SITE IN RESPONSE TO A SUIT ORIGINALLY FILED BY THE STATE OF WASHINGTON. IN RESPONSE TO AN AFFADAVIT FILED WITH THE COURT, D.O.E HAD HELD OFF ON A SITE INVESTIGATION UNTIL OCTOBER 1 TO GIVE CONGRESS TIME TO ENACT LEGISLATION. BUT DOLE SAYS THE DEPARTMENT WOULD BE BETTER SERVED IF IT SIMPLY ASKED THE COURT FOR AN EXTENSION IN THE FACE OF LEGISLATION ON CAPITOL HILL THAT WILL MAKE THE SEARCH MOOT. THERE ARE THREE SEPERATE BILLS PENDING BERFORE THE SENATE THAT WOULD ELIMINATE THE EASTERN REPOSITORY.