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FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
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FOR RELEASE AM'S TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1969

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 11 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) late Monday urged the Chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Air and Water Pollution to invite former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall to testify on the oil slick controversy in California.

In a letter to Subcommittee chairman Edmund Muskie (D-Maine), Dole said, "It seems highly important, since the oil leases in question were approved and authorized by Udall, that he be invited to appear before our committee at the earliest possible time."

"The committee should have the benefit of his testimony and hear his reasons for awarding the leases and the circumstances surrounding these awards," he added.

"This is particularly important," Dole said, "since an effort appears to be underway, by inference and innuendo, to place the blame for granting the leases on the current Secretary of the Interior, Walter Hickel, when in fact, they were granted many months before Hickel's appointment was confirmed."

"If possible, Mr. Udall should appear before our committee prior to the field hearings in Santa Barbara, Calif., tentatively February 24 and 25."

Dole is a member of the air and water pollution subcommittee.

((TEXT OF LETTER FROM U.S. SENATOR BOB
DOLE (KANS.) TO SEN. EDMUND MUSKIE
(MAINE) ON THE OIL SLICK CONTROVERSY
IN CALIFORNIA.))

Feb. 10, 1969

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am pleased to learn that our Subcommittee will go to Santa Barbara for field hearings in the near future, tentatively on February 24 and 25.

It is, as you recognize, also important that further hearings be held in Washington, particularly that we hear from Secretary of Interior Walter Hickel and other representatives in his Department.

It also seems highly important, since the leases in question were approved and authorized by former Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall, that he be invited to appear at the earliest possible time. The Committee should have the benefit of his testimony, his reasons for awarding the leases and the circumstances surrounding these awards, particularly since there appears to be an effort, by inference and innuendo, to place the blame for granting of the leases on the current Secretary of Interior. While I am certain you understand the leases in question were awarded many months before Secretary Hickel's confirmation, some segments of the news media and others continue to make reference to Secretary Hickel and the granting of the leases in question.

Again, I respectfully request that Mr. Stewart Udall be invited to appear before our Committee at an early date, preferably prior to field hearings in Santa Barbara.

Sincerely yours,

(signed)

BOB DOLE
U.S. Senate