



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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WASHINGTON, D.C.— In testimony prepared for delivery at the Energy Policy Office's hearing on a proposed Mandatory Allocation Program for LP gas, Senator Bob Dole underscored the priority needs of agriculture and rural home dwellers.

Commenting on the supply of LP gas in Kansas, Dole pointed out that the state is short "approximately 36,500,000 gallons or 11.25 per cent" of the normal 325,000,000 gallon annual consumption. The large number of rural families in Kansas who use propane for winter heating make the shortage a critical issue. About 63 per cent of the statewide usage goes to domestic purposes such as home heating.

In addition, LP gas plays a vital role in the agricultural sector. There is it used for irrigation, crop drying and tractor operation. A Kansas State University forecast quoted by Dole estimates that with normal moisture levels this fall, about 41.7 million gallons of propane will be needed for the drying of corn, grain sorghum, and soybeans. A wet harvest, as with last year, would require more. These feed grains cannot be stored without sufficient drying.

"The importance of this use for LP gas cannot be over-emphasized," Dole said, "and must be given a top priority in consideration of the allocation plan."