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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR RELEASE

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DOLE SEES BRIGHT FUTURE FOR AMERICA

Hutchinson, Kansas. Senator Bob Dole today cautioned against too much pessimism or despair over the impact of the energy crisis on America. Speaking to a student convocation at Hutchinson Junior College, Senator Dole said, "Some are saying the energy crisis means a worldwide economic slowdown, disruption of the International Monetary System, and perhaps a basic realignment in the power relationships between many of the world's countries and trading powers. Dark pictures are being painted in many quarters, and it would be easy to become alarmed and full of despair for the future. But I cannot bring myself to share the gloom and darkness of these prophets.

"I do not think the energy crisis -- or any other crisis -- will prove the undoing of this nation or the basic world order in the foreseeable future. Perhaps it is false optimism on my part which leads to this view, but I do not think so. Rather, I believe it is based on a perspective which places the energy crisis -- just like the great depression, Pearl Harbor, Sputnik and even the War in Vietnam -- into proper focus. And that focus reveals the energy crisis as one of the great challenges which has confronted America and the world -- and which will be surmounted.

"I do not doubt that solutions to the energy crisis -- just as with these others will be difficult, will be costly and will require major sacrifices.

"We may have to say good-bye to our big cars, our 75 degree houses and twenty-five cent gasoline forever. But I do not believe we will have to forsake the company of distant family and friends, good and ample food supplies or a growing, healthy economy in the process. I may very well be proven wrong, but if history is any guide at all I do not believe the end of the world as we know it is at hand."

Citing 1980 as the year in which the worst of the energy supply crunch will have been weathered and new American energy efforts will begin to produce results, Senator Dole said oil from the Alaska pipeline, development of the Outer Continental Shelf would by then be supplying much of our needs. He added:

"In addition atomic power should be supplying close to ten times the energy it is today, while cleaner and more environmentally acceptable methods of mining and utilizing coal should account for nearly one-fourth of all our energy needs. And as a reminder of the Great Unexpected -- which has provided surprising solutions to so many of our problems -- there will probably be revolutionary new energy sources. And if for no other reason than this outlook for self-sufficiency in our energy picture, I would be optimistic about America in 1980. Because no other nation in the world today can look forward to even being close to energy independence at that time. And this factor in turn means that America's economy -- not Europe's and not Japan's -- will still be the world's strongest and most productive as we begin the decade of the 80's."