



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521
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CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON

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DOLE OUTLINES FUEL PROPOSALS, OFFERS AID TO KANSANS WITH EMERGENCIES

WASHINGTON, D.C.--In a letter to Energy Administrator William Simon, Senator Bob Dole today proposed a two-step plan to help assure continued supplies of fuel for Kansas. Dole proposed an immediate revision in Federal Regulations coupled with a special 10-million gallon Federal allocation to help meet both agricultural and non-agricultural demands during coming peak periods.

Dole also cited the need for major revisions in the crude oil allocation program, which he said, "is a disastrous failure in its present form."

Dole said the adjustments he is recommending would provide millions of gallons of additional fuel to the State to meet both the agricultural and non-agricultural demands during the upcoming growing season and assure that heavy agricultural demands are not met at the expense of the fuel supplies available to Kansas retail purchasers.

Under the regulations now being considered, agricultural production is to receive 100 % of current need, but the fuel to meet these needs is to come out of the over-all Kansas fuel allocation. Since agriculture is a predominant industry in Kansas, this would put an unreasonable demand on other users of fuel in the State. Dole said, "The production of food and agricultural commodities is a national priority, and the fuel to meet this priority should come from the national base, not just from the allocation now available to Kansas."

Asserting that the present crude oil allocation program "must go," Dole revealed he was working to develop a "more flexible alternative to the present program."

CRUDE ALLOCATION PROGRAM

In his letter to Simon, Dole said, "We need a program that can protect the small and independent refiners -- whose production is so vitally important to rural areas -- but can eliminate the massive distortions now being created in our national crude oil distribution system."

Dole added, "There is little room left for doubt that the present crude allocation is a disastrous failure. The evidence indicates that far from achieving its objective, it has actually aggravated the fuel shortage."

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Dole told Simon he agreed with the Federal Energy Office's position that the present program should be repealed and replaced with a less rigid plan. "Under the present law, many refiners which supply Kansas have been forced to sell their crude -- much of which is produced in Kansas -- to other refiners who do business outside the State. On a national scale, the program has actually decreased the total supply of crude by discouraging purchase of crude supplies available for import."

EMERGENCY RELIEF

Dole also encourages Kansans with fuel emergencies to contact his office. "Offering Kansans effective relief from emergency fuel problems has to continue as our top priority during the current fuel shortages.

"The Federal Government has made about 3 million gallons of gasoline and quantities of other fuels available to meet emergencies in Kansas," Dole explained. The fuel is available through the State set-aside program.

Dole said that Kansans with fuel emergencies need relief in two ways. "If they contact my office we would work through the State set-aside program first to arrange temporary relief and would coordinate with the Federal Energy Office to try to arrange for long-term allocation adjustments to prevent the emergency from arising again.

"We ought to see to it that the set-aside fuel is put to full use. Any that is not used is lost to the State. You can't carry it over into the next month and build up a reserve."