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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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EXTRA ACREAGE IN CULTIVATION JUSTIFIES MORE FUEL FOR KANSAS SAYS DOLE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole said today in Washington that Kansas "deserves more fuel because farmers have responded to the call for increased production by putting almost 400,000 additional acres into cultivation this year over last."

Dole made a formal request today to Energy Administrator William Simon for an administrative change in the formula by which a state's monthly fuel allocation is determined. Currently, base period fuel usage for a state is adjusted for growth in motor vehicle registration only. The number of additional vehicles registered in a state, however, is only one part of the picture, according to Dole. "Increased crop acreage," Dole says, "especially in a state like Kansas, is a most significant factor in the growth of actual fuel need for a given month. It can and should be taken into account as a growth factor. As long as one agency of government, the Department of Agriculture, is encouraging all-out farm production, then the agency in charge of fuel allocation ought to be doing all it can to ensure that farmers have the fuel they need to respond to that call. I am requesting that you make the necessary administrative changes to bring this about."

Dole said that precise figures were not available but that if the requested change were made in the allocation computation formula, it would mean several million additional gallons of fuel for Kansas during the Spring and Summer months of heavy agricultural activity.

Dole said he would pursue the farm fuel situation during hearings of the Senate Agricultural Production, Marketing and Stabilization of Prices Subcommittee. The hearings, which are being held at the request of Senator Dole, will study measures being taken to insure adequate fuel during the planting and harvest seasons. Hearings will be March 25 and 26.