



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE PETROCHEMICAL MEASURE PASSES SENATE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--An amendment authored by Senator Bob Dole that would allow the Administrator of the Federal Energy Administration to allocate petrochemical supplies on a national, regional, or case by case basis passed the Senate yesterday.

Dole said that while the vastness and complexity of the petrochemical industry would make it difficult to allocate these supplies, "some of our most vital industries are severely affected by the shortage of petrochemicals, and it is clear that some priorities must be established and that action needs to be taken." Dole added that the measure would "fill a major loophole in existing authority."

"The dairy industry, the fertilizer industry, the pharmaceutical manufacturers and the producers of medical devices are examples of those that should undoubtedly be considered for a priority under any allocation program which might affect them. Other industries using petrochemicals may need an allocation program because of the extreme economic dislocations, financial hardships, and unemployment taking place," Dole continued. "Plastic processors have been especially hard hit by the shortage and should receive consideration in this regard."

Dole said the FEO's estimate that petrochemical shortages may exist for several years, "clearly require that the Administrator should have the authority to act on severe problems resulting from the inequitable distribution of the petrochemicals as well as take steps to increase the level of their production."

Dole said he expected the FEO to use the new authority to aid in expansion of the production of petrochemicals.

The measure is permissive only, it does not require that these supplies be allocated.