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For Lee Egerstrom

NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE TRIES UNFREEZING ANTIFREEZE

Washington, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole today telegraphed 10 producers of antifreeze, including the leading three -- Dow, DuPont and Union Carbide -- urging increased efforts to maintain fair pricing and distribution and to expand output. Dole also wrote the Federal Trade Commission, the Federal Energy Administration and the new Economic Council urging increased surveillance of trade and pricing practices in the antifreeze industry.

"The shortage and high price are just another factor in the high rate of inflation people are trying to cope with," Dole said, "and when it appears to be filling somebody's pocket in an improper manner, we have a responsibility to do something about it."

In his message to the 10 producing companies, Dole cited an offer made to a Kansas distributor of 5.5 million gallons of antifreeze at a price double the normal market value. Dole urged the producers to show more responsibility to their customers in maintaining fair distribution of pricing practices. While stating that price controls last year were counterproductive to increasing production and holding down prices, the Senator expressed concern that the government might be forced to intervene in the antifreeze industry in the public interest unless improvements in supply and prices occur in coming months.

Dole asked FEA to increase "jawboning" efforts to get producers to increase antifreeze production and surveillance of distribution channels. He urged the FTC and the Economic Policy Board to increase monitoring of trade and pricing practices in the antifreeze industry to preclude non-competitive and inflationary activities.

The shortage has apparently developed due to the oil shortage, DuPont's withdrawal from production, and more profitable uses for the basic ingredient in antifreeze, ethylene glycol, in plastics and synthetic fabrics which have diverted supplies of this material.