



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE REQUESTS PROPANE ACTION

MANHATTAN, KS.---Senator Bob Dole today called on the Federal Energy Administration to "meet its responsibility of keeping propane prices at a reasonable level."

In a letter to FEA Administrator John Sawhill, Dole said, "It is my understanding that proposed regulations set forth on propane by the Federal Energy Administration would permit large increases in the price of propane by major producers.

"Such increases, as the proposals of September 5th and 10th would permit, would raise prices back to the vicinity of prices last winter," Dole reminded Sawhill that last winter's prices were disastrous for thousands of Kansans, "especially for rural residents and for elderly people with fixed incomes. This suffering and sacrifice many Kansans went through last year simply cannot be permitted again this year."

Dole said the prices of last winter "would also be disastrous to the retail propane industry." He said the retail industry in Kansas became "the whipping boy" for high prices charged by major producers last winter, while they were trying to keep honest and reasonable profit margins and take care of their customers.

Dole, who requested a propane pricing investigation and introduced legislation to roll back propane prices last winter, urged that the FEA "protect the historic market by staying with the regulations which became effective on August 1st."

In August, Dole said those regulations appeared to satisfy his request for a requirement that regulations be changed "to permit increases in the price charged for propane only when they are directly associated with increased propane production costs."