



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE REQUESTS ACTION, EXPLANATION ON PROPANE PRICES

WASHINGTON, D.C.---In an effort to "avoid a repetition of serious propane price and supply problems which burdened many American citizens last winter," Senator Bob Dole today urged that Federal Energy Administrator Frank Zarb intensify the investigation of possible market manipulations involving propane.

In a letter to Zarb, Dole said he welcomed the Federal Energy Administration's current investigation into alleged propane futures market manipulation, "but I hasten to point out again, as I did last year, that it is essential that steps be taken in time to prevent these abuses from having any major impact on the price of propane at retail." Dole also requested a "prompt report on the progress of FEA's investigations to date and plans for future actions to forestall unreasonable propane price increases."

Dole pointed out that while he had been able, with the cooperation of FEA, to follow through on numerous complaints last winter about improper propane pricing abuses, success had come after the fact, in the form of reimbursements rather than holding the line on prices.

Dole also told Zarb that the "ambiguity and complexity of the regulations made it virtually impossible to determine the correct prices," and he requested a "plain language" explanation of regulations that he could provide to the retailers in Kansas. Dole said retailers were often unfairly assigned blame for higher prices, when they were making every effort to keep an honest and reasonable margin.