

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE BILL WOULD INCREASE FILL-RATE FOR STRATEGIC PETROLEUM RESERVE

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today introduced legislation which would increase the daily fill-rate of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve from 100,000 barrels to 300,000 barrels.

Dole, citing the Iraqi-Iranian hostilities, argues that he and Senator Bill Bradley (D.-N.J.) were correct in calling for the filling of the strategic reserve, which currently is only 10 percent full with 92 million barrels available-- barely a 12 day supply.

"Months have passed since the Senate expressed its will in adopting the so-called Dole-Bradley Amendment, which requires the President to fill the Strategic Oil Reserve at a minimum rate of 100,000 barrels a day. The storage and pumping facilities have been built, the money for the purchase has been appropriated, the will of the people has been demonstrated-- yet the reserve remains close to empty. . . Now, with the outbreak of fighting between Iran and Iraq, we are faced with the very type of International calamity for which the Strategic Oil Reserve was created," said Dole.

Warned Last Week

"There is simply no need for this lack of preparedness. Just last week (Congressional Record, S. 12777) I chastised the Administration and warned, as many others have, that a disruption of this type might come-- that's why the SPR machinery is in place. But the operator of the machinery, the President, has tied up the controls for filling the reserve," said Dole.

"I understand that the President is acting to mollify the Saudis," added Dole, "but we must recognize that the Saudis are looking out for themselves. It is time for this Administration to do the same for our country. The SPR is energy insurance-- a banked supply of oil that the United States could utilize in the event the major oil producers cannot settle their differences as amicably as they did last year," Dole added.

Only Solution

"The only short-term solution to the lack of oil currently found in the reserve is to increase the rate of flow into it. Our best interests are at stake. This mandate must be enacted now," Dole said.

"This Senator, quite frankly, is not pleased to have to offer a measure forcing the President to take action he should take of his own accord. But apparently there's no other choice. My measure is reasonable. It is responsible. And it is right. We can no longer allow a timid Administration to play Russian-Roulette with our national security," Dole concluded.