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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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DOLE SCORES HOUSE ENERGY ACTIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole criticized the House Democrat leadership's handling of energy legislation, charging that the energy bill presently being considered by the House may "actually be counterproductive to the United States energy independence effort." Dole was reacting to House action this week which eliminated most of the energy conservation provisions of the energy bill recommended by a House committee without substituting alternative conservation provisions.

Dole said, "The House action this week has demonstrated the unwillingness of the House Democrat leadership to push for strong -- though perhaps not politically popular -- energy conservation legislation. As the House energy bill now stands, the Senate may very well have to start from scratch in formulating a workable, equitable energy conservation program which will make it possible for the United States to achieve energy self-sufficiency."

Dole also urged the Senate Finance Committee, on which he serves, to begin consideration of the House energy bill as soon as the House completes action on the measure. In a letter to Senator Russell Long, Chairman of the Finance Committee, Dole cited the need for prompt action by Congress on energy conservation and development legislation, and he asserted that the United States "will not have domestic economic stability until we are assured of a dependable, uninterrupted source of energy at reasonable prices."

Dole pointed out that it has been nearly two years since the Arab oil embargo. "Since then, U.S. reliance on imported oil has increased for a number of reasons, not the least of which is Congress' failure to enact a single piece of legislation to increase production of domestic oil and gas or encourage development of new sources of energy. In fact, almost every new energy-related bill passed by the Congress to date has been counterproductive to the United States energy independence effort."