

200.



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FOR RELEASE: Saturday A.M.

July 23, 1977

## DOLE ADDRESSES TRUCKERS CONVENTION

KANSAS CITY, Mo-- There is a rising tide of dissatisfaction with government regulation in the United States, Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) told a convention of truckers Friday evening.

He noted that the Senate Commerce Committee is planning hearings and the Carter Administration expects to make legislative recommendations on economic regulation of the trucking industry later this year or in 1978.

Dole said wise public policy should maintain stability of service without restricting entry or discouraging competition. Without endorsing specific legislative proposals, the senator saw the rising cost of motor fuel as a special reason to reduce the number of empty return trips by trucks--the so-called "back-haul" problem.

## GAS TAX HIKE CRITICIZED

He criticized President Carter's proposal for a steep increase in gasoline taxes, adding:

"Before we take such drastic action to force a reduction in the consumption of motor fuel, why don't we at least try to increase the domestic supply of energy by giving producers an economic incentive to develop new sources? I favor the removal of some of the government controls on petroleum prices, with a requirement that the excess profits be plowed back into new exploration and new production.

"As you know better than anyone else, not all driving is pleasure driving. The President's plan to raise taxes on motor fuel would discriminate against motorists who must drive long distances--such as those in my state of Kansas.

"It is important that we arrive at a balanced energy policy--balanced between conservation and increased supply--balanced between the needs of urban and non-urban residents."

Dole made the remarks in a speech to the annual convention of the Independent Truckers Association, an organization of independent owner-operators, at the Crown Center.

He said the American people are finally beginning to notice the impact of excess regulatory activity, which promotes monopoly conditions, leads to higher consumer prices, and discourages innovation.