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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE - PRESS CONFERENCE ON INDUSTRIAL USERS TAX

American consumers stand to lose billions of dollars because the Administration deliberately delayed providing information on the economic effects of the Industrial Users Tax when it was requested by the Congress.

We are being asked to make a multi-billion dollar decision--a decision that will affect, in one way or another, nearly every consumer and business in America, without complete information on which industries and which parts of the nation will be adversely impacted by the enactment of this tax. The Finance Committees heard testimony that the utility bills of consumers all over the country will be raised by \$200 a year, however, it appears that this is only part of the chaos this tax would cause.

More than once, members of Congress who are charged with making decisions on energy taxation, have requested from the Administration information on the economic impact of the Industrial Users Tax. And each time, Secretary Schlessinger and other Department of Energy officials have said that such information was not available or did not exist.

Now we find out it does exist and, in fact, existed months before the original request was made back in May of this year. This four-volume computer print out--containing all the information requested--is dated February 14, 1977.

It is obvious from the overwhelming amount of information contained in these volumes that it will take us some time to sort through it and do what we should have been able to do months ago: determine the effect on consumers and businesses of the \$30 billion Industrial Users Tax. If the Administration had been forthcoming and aboveboard, we would be in a position today to reasonably and rationally consider the President's tax proposal.

The deliberate withholding of vital information from the Congress should reasonably lead us to wonder whether the data contained in these four volumes is not in fact damaging to the Administration's arguments in favor of the Industrial Users Tax. The Administration should be called before the Conferees to explain why this information has been withheld.