



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE  
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1979 6 P.M. EST

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## DOLE SUGGESTS 'SWAPPING' OIL

AKRON, Ohio -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today called for the United States, Japan and Mexico to look into the possibility of "swapping" oil in order to achieve a "rational and balanced system of oil and gas supply."

"The United States placed a well-intentioned ban on the export of Alaskan oil," Dole said here at a press conference preceding remarks at the Summit County Lincoln Day Dinner. "Due to the realities and expenses involved in moving that oil to the American consumer, we found that it would be more cost effective to allow the 'swap' of Alaskan crude for other, less expensive sources.

"The oil that is glutting the West Coast is now shipped through the Panama Canal to the Gulf Coast, at great expense to the oil companies. The reduced profits inhibit any increased production in Alaska, at a time when the loss of Iranian oil is severely limiting world supplies.

"Plans call for pipelines through Canada and the northern states to carry oil to the Midwest and East. The chances these plans will ever be put into action are questionable, since many environmental groups plan costly court challenges in order to protect wildlife and wilderness areas.

"We need to realize oil and energy are global, interlocking problems, and they must be resolved by far-reaching, international strategies. Japan is a large consumer of oil and would be happy to buy our surplus oil from the North Slope. In exchange, Middle Eastern and Mexican supplies destined for Japan could be diverted to our East Coast, at greater savings to all. This would also stimulate more production, and thereby reduce the current tension on the world market.

"In the same manner we must seek a broad solution to the question of Mexican natural gas imports.

"It is surely short-sighted to choke off this potential energy source because we have a temporary surplus in this country and a slightly cheaper contract with Canada. Energy users would turn to natural gas as an alternative source to oil, thus reducing pressure on oil consumption and broadening our options, if only they could rely on a steady supply of gas from Mexico as well as domestic and Canadian sources.

"The President and Congress may hesitate at comprehensive solutions to our energy problem at a time when the Iranian crisis is causing a price rise. But American consumers are educated enough to know that a slight increase now will pay off in the long run if we achieve a rational and balanced system of oil and gas supply."