



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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## GAS RATIONING PLAN INDICATES ADMINISTRATION'S ENERGY PROGRAM IS BANKRUPT

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today called President Carter's gas rationing plan "an admission of failure" in the energy field and "a clear indication that this Administration is bankrupt when it comes to dealing with the nation's energy needs."

Earlier in the day the White House sent Capitol Hill a list of measures designed to deal with the Iranian oil squeeze caused by unrest and disruption of production in that Middle East country.

Dole issued the following statement in response to the President's package:

"It appears the American public will soon be asked to pay the price for the bungling energy policies of this Administration. The siege mentality which has overtaken the White House and the Department of Energy concerning this subject marks a road to disaster.

"This government's energy policy is confused and disoriented, and our efforts, once deemed the moral equivalent of war, now seem to be little more than the moral equivalent of unconditional surrender," said Dole.

"It has been almost two years since the President addressed the country on the energy crisis and presented his energy program. That program or, better said, lack of program, was and is a disaster. We should quit wringing our hands. We should quit feeling sorry for ourselves. We should cease our defeatist attitude.

"We cannot wait any longer. The country needs leadership and sound proposals. Instead of whining over the turmoil overseas we should act here at home. Instead of threatening military action in the Persian Gulf we should be embarking on a plan to spur domestic production of oil. Instead of insulting our neighbor to the south, we should reach an equitable agreement with the Mexican government, based on mutual respect and mutual need. The rationing syndrome will not solve our energy needs. The banning of commercial lighting, or the Sunday closure of gasoline stations, is not necessarily the answer. At least part of the answer lies in reversing government policies and regulations which currently prevent domestic exploration," said Dole.

### Need To Get A Grip On Situation

"The Administration needs to get a grip on this situation. The tired old pronouncements of the past, echoed by the same tired, old voices, cannot and will not lead us out of this predicament.

"I, for one, believe the Congress is more than ready to act on the energy question. We have been ready for some time. We only ask that the Administration work in concert with the Congress, not in discord," said Dole.