



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 14, 1979

CONTACT: BOB WAITE, BILL KATS
202-224-8953, 224-8947

DOLE CALLS FOR HEARINGS ON DOE GASOLINE ALLOCATION PERIOD

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) late yesterday urged Energy Secretary James Schlesinger to schedule regional hearings in Kansas City on Department of Energy regulations changing the base period for determining gasoline allocations. Dole called for the hearings so that Kansas and other Midwestern gasoline distributors and dealers would have a proper forum to express their views on the base period, which is used to determine deliveries of gasoline.

The Department of Energy has previously used the year 1972 as the standard by which to allocate gasoline to individual dealers. The amount of gasoline used by dealers that year has determined the amount of allocations they have received each subsequent year. On March 1, DOE decided to change the base period for determining allocations, and picked the one-year period from July 1, 1977, to June 30, 1978. This means that gasoline dealers will be able to purchase no more gasoline than they sold that year. This will also determine the amount of gas available at the pump for all Kansas motorists.

In a letter to Secretary Schlesinger, Dole expressed concern that DOE choose a base period that would be fair to Kansas consumers. "While I am aware of the need to update allocation standards and insure equitable distribution of increasingly scarce petroleum products, I am concerned that the base period be representative of the dealer's needs," Dole said. "The new base period may not be appropriate for gasoline users in Kansas and other agricultural areas. Because of an unusually dry year, gasoline sales were down in 1977 and 1978. As you know, farmers plow less during dry years, thus using less gasoline. The resulting allocation could lead to shortages in agricultural areas during normal years. I certainly hope that considerations such as those encountered in Kansas have been taken into account.

"I would also like to insure that those dealers who had unusually bad years in 1977 and 1978 have adequate procedures available to them in coming months to adjust their allocations to more accurately reflect their needs."

Dole also strongly suggested that Schlesinger delay the scheduled move of the Kansas City Office of Hearings and Appeals to Chicago until the hearings may be held.

DOE will make a final decision on the base period at the end of 90 days.