



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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SUNDAY GAS STATION CLOSINGS DISCRIMINATORY, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that the Energy Department's proposal to ban weekend or Sunday gasoline sales is discriminatory and that the closing of stations will not significantly reduce the overall consumption of gasoline.

"The proposal to mandate weekend closings of gasoline stations demonstrates the ineptitude of the Administration energy policy," Dole said. "It is significant that a report authorized by DOE itself questions the effectiveness of pursuing such a plan. To do so discriminates against areas that rely on tourism for survival. Furthermore, a move to halt sales on weekends will only create long gas lines on other days of the week, to say nothing of the needless panic and air of crisis that it will engender.

"The war on energy that the Carter Administration declared two years ago apparently has been lost by default. The President and the Department of Energy seem convinced that they can salvage the energy problem by promoting schemes and slogans that don't actually address energy production.

"The country needs leadership willing to address the true problems behind our energy difficulties. We need a program to release the energy industry from the shackles of government regulation. We can no longer afford to deliberately leave our resources untouched while promoting plans that deceive the public.

"Weekend closings is only a symptom of the problem. Unfortunately, it is one of many."