



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE SAYS PRESIDENT'S LATEST ENERGY POLICY COMES 'TWO YEARS TOO LATE' TO HELP

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas), when asked to comment on the President's energy address last night, said "What we have heard from the President is an admission that his original energy program, which he proclaimed to be the moral equivalent of war just two years ago, was totally misdirected, and that huge taxes and counterproductive controls have cost us two years in the struggle to free the American people from the fetters of foreign oil producers. I fear this latest energy 'policy' comes two years too late to be of any real help."

Dole added that, "Although President Carter has taken a half-step in the right direction by ordering decontrol of domestic oil prices, he is again proposing a series of complicated and costly tax credits and rebates, and another multi-billion dollar crude oil tax-- none of which hold much promise for alleviating domestic energy shortages anytime soon."

The Kansas Republican said that "If we are going to decontrol oil prices, the American people have a right to expect that a substantial portion of the increased revenues ~~be~~ made available to oil producers be used for exploration and development of more domestic supplies."

"I do commend the President for recognizing that the government must encourage the development of oil shale and gasohol," Dole said. "And I share his view that we must afford some degree of protection for the poor and families living in areas of the nation, like New England and the Midwest, which depend heavily on oil to heat their homes. We must avoid dividing our nation into regions with competing energy interests," said Dole, "if we are to maintain internal economic stability."