

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
MONDAY, MAY 21, 1979

CONTACT: BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8953

DOLE SAYS AMERICANS NEED REASSURANCE THEY ARE BEING TOLD TRUTH ABOUT ENERGY SITUATION

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today expanded on his proposal, made Sunday on ABC's 'Issues and Answers', for the formation of a National Energy Council.

Dole said today that he proposed the Council because "the American public needs reassurance that they are being told the truth about this nation's energy situation."

"The key problem is credibility. No one believes what the government says, no one believes what the industry says. The American people are confused and apprehensive, and increasingly frustrated. Quite frankly, I can't blame them," said Dole.

"What I have suggested is a National Energy Council, to be proposed by the President, and funded by the Congress, comprised of a bipartisan membership reflecting the most able leaders from the energy industry, labor, the consumer movement, environmental groups and research and academic insititutes. It should be formed with the twin objectives of (1) earning a reputation for credibility of energy data and forecasts and (2) publication of an annual national energy audit which would inform the nation as to where we are, where we are heading; how we have succeeded or failed, and what new directions may be necessary," said Dole.

A Nation Divided

"We are currently a nation divided. We have a potentially dangerous situation which pits energy-rich regions against energy-poor regions. We are a divided people because there is no agreement as to the elements of a national energy policy. Without a strong consensus we cannot make a united attack on energy issues; we cannot make the financial, technical and resource commitments to assure our energy needs are met," said Dole.

"Also," added the Kansas Senator, "we should not underestimate the impact such a move would have overseas. It would hopefully indicate that the United States is not an energy-vulnerable colossus who, because of weakness in this strategic supply area, might fail to act, or might over-react, should there be a new Middle East Crisis."

On 'Issues and Answers' Dole suggested that Vice President Walter Mondale might head up the National Energy Council

He also said that he believed that gasoline rationing was "an immediate concern, but not the real issue. What we really need to address is not the symptom, which is how I would describe the gasoline shortage, but the problem, which is lack of production, lack of solid and reliable information, and a lack of direction in developing alternative sources of energy," said Dole.