

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE SAYS DIESEL DECISION 'SHOWS INDECISION' BY ADMINISTRATION

Washington-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) said this past weekend that President Carter's decision to end the special priority allocation of diesel fuel to farmers "is just another indication of indecision and lack of leadership on the part of the administration."

Dole, who was in Minnesota yesterday, said "it is no wonder that the American people are confused and frustrated. It is difficult to see any pattern or rational plan in the various directives and statements being issued by the White House, the Department of Energy and the Department of Agriculture.

Dole pointed out that in his own state of Kansas and in other of the Great Plains states the wheat harvest is fully underway.

"It takes fuel to harvest wheat, just as it takes fuel to plant it, and I hope this action will not disrupt the harvest. Agricultural products are this nation's best source of export income--income that helps set off the deficit from importing oil," said Dole.

"My real fear is that the Administration will give the impression of jumping from one competing constituency to another-- from the farmers to the truckers to the people in this nation who will need (and should get) sufficient heating oil-- without stopping to rationalize their actions or work out an overall plan."

Dole said he continues to believe that the public needs "the truth" about supplies, and again called for an annual "energy audit, which would settle, once and for all, the controversy over supply figures."

Dole also called for the President to convene an "energy summit" which would include top oil company executives and energy officials.

"We need strong leadership if we are to get this situation under control. I plan to attach my proposals to legislation before the Senate this week in an effort to get some action".