

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8953

DOLE SAYS PURPOSE OF OIL DECONTROL IS NOT TO RAISE TAX MONEY, BUT INCREASE PRODUCTION

WAGONER, OKLA.-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) said today that he expects the Senate will enact a Windfall Profits Tax "that will carry out the intent of decontrol--increased production."

Dole called Thursday's House action approving a 60-percent oil tax rate "a step in the right direction, and certainly better than the bill reported out of Ways and Means," but the Kansas Senator, who is the Ranking Republican member of the powerful Senate Finance Committee added that, "we must not lose sight of the fact that the principle justification for decontrol must be to maximize production. Reliable estimates indicate that the bill passed by the House will, by 1985, leave us over 700,000 barrels short of maximum production."

Praises Jones, Moore

"I would like to commend the bipartisan effort of Representative James Jones of Oklahoma and Henson Moore of Louisiana which brought about an improved, compromise bill," Dole said.

"When this bill comes before the Senate it is my intention to work to see that it is further strengthened. We must insure that domestic production is increased. I intend to see that the bill be structured in such a way that it will insure that we are less dependent on OPEC nations. If we fail to do so, we are risking the very future of this nation."

Dole said he believes there should be an exemption provision for small, independent producers, and he also argued that the tax should be reviewed periodically. The current House bill calls for it to run through 1990.

"If domestic oil production is to be increased, it will have to come from newly discovered oil, marginal wells, and wells using expensive flushing methods required to bring hard-to-get oil to the surface," said Dole. "The independents are traditionally the ones who drill the wells in this country and they must be given the incentive to do so."

Senator Dole was in Oklahoma on Saturday to attend a Republican Party function.