

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: BILL KATS, BOB WAITE
202-224-8947, -8953

PRIVATE ENTERPRISE'S ROLE IN ENERGY APPARENTLY OVERLOOKED BY THE PRESIDENT, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Although he applauded the goal of energy independence spelled out by President Carter, Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today expressed disappointment in the President's failure to mention the role of private enterprise in solving our energy problem.

"I hope the President is successful in starting this country down the road to reducing its imports of foreign oil," Dole said. "We can all applaud his goal of energy independence, but it should be noted that every initiative suggested by the President calls for more government control, regulation or bureaucracy.

"The government is not necessarily the answer to all that ails us. One bureaucracy piled on another may not be the proper choice to make. It is, after all, government regulation, red tape and bureaucracy that contributed to our present state of affairs. If Congress approves these new agencies, it is important that corresponding cuts be made in the Department of Energy and other regulatory bodies.

"The big disappointment must be the President's failure to mention the role of private enterprise. A free market allowed to allocate resources can do more than all of these government programs combined. -- Energy Secretary Schlesinger admitted last week that the federal government simply does not have the technical ability to solve our energy dilemma. The program that President Carter spelled out seems to total from \$160-\$200 billion -- all of which, it appears, is to be funded by the so-called windfall profits tax.

"I hope President Carter is not determined to destroy the private oil industry and create a giant federal corporation to replace it. Kicking the oil industry may offer an attractive short-term political advantage, but it makes poor long-term energy policy."