

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
TUESDAY, JULY 17, 1979

CONTACT: BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8953

DOLE OFFERS AMENDMENT TO ESTABLISH ENERGY MOBILIZATION BOARD

WASHINGTON-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today offered an amendment to S. 562 which would establish an "Energy Mobilization Board".

Senator Dole, ranking Republican on the Senate Finance Committee and Chairman of the Republican Task Force on Energy, said he offered the amendment "to show that Congress is ready to act quickly and in a bipartisan manner to attempt to solve this nation's energy problem."

Dole's office informed the White House of the Senator's intention to introduce the amendment last night.

"I wanted the President to know that we in Congress are ready to act now on those proposals with clear merit. I think the Energy Mobilization Board is an example of the kind of thing we can quickly move on," said Dole.

Dole says his proposal "follows the broad outline as presented by the Administration."

Not A Huge, New Bureaucracy

"My proposal does insure that this board would not be a huge, new bureaucracy," said Dole. "My amendment specifically points out the need for the board to utilize personnel, services, equipment, and facilities of other federal departments and agencies. My amendment would also provide for funding out of the budget for the Department of Energy. It seems to me that it would be appropriate for these monies to come from the \$10 billion appropriation which goes to that Department," said Dole.

Wouldn't Conflict With States

Senator Dole also said his proposal would recognize the role of the states and local governments in the process.

"To insure the board will not conflict with the rights of the of the several states, a provision to coordinate activities with the governors and local officials in reaching a final decision on a priority energy project is incorporated in this amendment. It is intended under this amendment that the board will act in an advisory capacity with the Governors, working together to expedite energy decisions."

Senator Dole explained that the function of the board is "to facilitate the approval of non-nuclear projects aimed at reducing our dependency on foreign energy sources. The board would determine priorities and would help cut through regulation and red tape in order to achieve real headway in our energy fight."

The board would be comprised of three members, appointed by the President, with the advise and consent of the Senate. They would serve three-year terms and would be drawn "from those sectors, . . . concerned with development and production of energy such as consumer groups, environmentalists, economists, and others."

Senator Dole said he hopes for "strong, bipartisan support for this measure. It will send a strong signal to the nation that we mean business."