

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 22, 1979

CONTACT: BILL KATS, MARTHA McCABE
202-224-8947, -8941

DOLE CALLS U.S. EXPORT OF HEATING OIL TO IRAN 'INEXCUSABLE'

DENVER -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today called the Carter Administration's decision to ship 1.5 million barrels of scarce home heating oil and kerosene to Iran "inexcusable," and called on President Carter and Energy Secretary Charles Duncan to justify the decision in light of the current shortage of home heating oil for this winter.

"The Administration, by granting this action, has again demonstrated its unwillingness to provide leadership in providing the energy this nation will need in both the short and long term," Dole said. "This only threatens the supply of home heating oil for the coming winter, and if repeated could push the cost out of reach for those middle income, elderly and low-income consumers who rely on heating oil.

"The Department of Energy states that we have set aside only 175.3 million barrels of No. 2 home heating oil as of Aug. 10, which is far below the 240-million-barrel goal President Carter indicated we would need by October. In June, I, along with Sen. Kennedy and 12 other senators, wrote to the President expressing our concern that 240 million barrels would not be in place by Oct. 1 unless we strove to add a million barrels per day to our inventories. I am convinced that we will not meet our winter needs if we continue to grant exceptions.

"The reported 1.5 million barrels of No. 2 oil scheduled to be exported to Iran may appear to be a small amount and may not appear to adversely affect the energy supplies we now have, but we have no assurance that additional shipments will not be granted in the future.

"This action can only serve to show the American people that the President will not fulfill the goals he set forth in his June 15 energy address. Furthermore, the decision to send the oil to Iran, an oil-rich nation, seems to provide even more confusion as to the basis of U.S.-Iranian cooperation.

"Should the Carter Administration continue to let amounts of this essential winter fuel be exported for any reason, undoubtedly the costs will increase for consumers, especially in the Northeast."

In response to dramatic increases in energy costs, Dole and Sen. Abraham Ribicoff earlier this month introduced legislation which would provide tax credits for residential use of home heating oil. The Dole-Ribicoff bill calls for a tax credit of up to \$250 applied to the increased price of home heating oil. The credit is "phased down" for those earning incomes in excess of \$20,000.

"The cost of heating oil will go up in price by 40 or 50 cents per gallon this year," Dole said. "Actions such as those taken today will push the cost even higher."