

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

KANSAS CONSERVATION CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION
DOWNTOWN HOLIDAY INN
TOPEKA, KANSAS
MONDAY, JANUARY 14, 1974

I AM HAPPY TO HAVE AN OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS YOU FOR A FEW MINUTES THIS MORNING. SEVERAL DEVELOPMENTS HAVE TAKEN PLACE, OR WILL BE COMING UP IN FUTURE WEEKS, THAT AFFECT LAND CONTRACTORS.

AS AN EXAMPEE, LAST MAY 30, I INTRODUCED A BILL IN THE SENATE, S. 1902, TO REINSTATE CERTAIN PERMANENT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVING PRACTICES. THIS BILL WAS SUBSEQUENTLY INCLUDED IN THE FARM BILL WHICH WAS PASSED BY CONGRESS AND SIGNED INTO LAW LAST AUGUST.

THE PERMANENT CONSERVATION MEASURES REFERRED TO IN MY BILL WERE DAMS, TERRACES, PONDS, WATERWAYS AND PERMANENT PRACTICES TO PREVENT EROSION. WE RETAINED IN THIS BILL THE COST-SHARING FORMULA WITH THE FEDERAL PORTION AT 50 PERCENT.

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PROGRAM FUNDING ANNOUNCED

AS YOU KNOW, ON DECEMBER 26, 1973, THE FUNDING LEVELS WERE ANNOUNCED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AT \$90 MILLION FOR THE RURAL ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION PROGRAM (RECP), AND \$10 MILLION FOR THE WATER BANK PROGRAM.

IT WAS ANTICIPATED AT THAT TIME THAT THE DETAILS OF THE TWO PROGRAMS WOULD BE SENT OUT WITHIN A FEW DAYS. AND, AS A MATTER OF FACT, THE WATER BANK PROGRAM PROVISIONS WERE SENT TO THE FIELD ON DECEMBER 27th.

UNFORTUNATELY, THERE HAS BEEN SOME DELAY IN IRONING OUT ALL OF THE DETAILS FOR THE RECP.

THERE WERE SOME COMPLICATIONS, APPARENTLY, THAT WERE BUILT IN, DUE TO THE LANGUAGE OF THE FARM ACT OF 1973, PERTAINING TO LONG TERM COST-SHARING, THE GREAT PLAINS CONSERVATION PROGRAM, AND THE FORESTRY INCENTIVES PROGRAM, WHICH HAVE TO BE PHASED INTO SOME KIND OF COORDINATED WORKING ARRANGEMENT.

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THEN, AS USUAL, THERE IS A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF NEGOTIATING THAT HAS TO TAKE PLACE BETWEEN THE USDA, WHICH MANAGES THE PROGRAM, AND THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, WHICH CONTROLS THE PURSE STRINGS. I DON'T KNOW FOR A FACT, BUT MY GUESS IS THAT THERE HAS BEEN SOME FURTHER NEGOTIATION BETWEEN USDA AND OMB CONCERNING LONG TERM VERSUS ANNUAL PRACTICES, AND HOW THE GREAT PLAINS PROGRAM WILL EVENTUALLY PHASE IN, AS PROVIDED UNDER TITLE X OF THE ACT OF 1973.

ANOTHER COMPLICATION IS DUE TO THE PROVISION THAT ALL LONG TERM COST-SHARE CONTRACTS MUST BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH AN APPROVED PLAN OF THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT. NOT EVERY FARM IN THE UNITED STATES CURRENTLY HAS ACCESS TO THE SERVICES OF A SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICT. WHILE THIS IS NO PROBLEM IN KANSAS, IT DOES CONSTITUTE A PROBLEM IN A NATIONAL PROGRAM.

I HAVE ASSURANCE THAT THE DEPARTMENT IS ON THE VERGE OF WORKING OUT ALL DIFFICULTIES, AND PROGRAM DETAILS SHOULD BE COMING OUT IN THE AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE OFFICES IN A MATTER OF DAYS.

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FUEL PROBLEMS AND CONTRACTORS

BUT NO MATTER HOW MUCH FUNDING IS VOTED FOR THESE PURPOSES, YOU CAN'T RUN YOUR EQUIPMENT WITHOUT FUEL. AND I AM CERTAINLY AWARE THAT SEVERAL PROBLEMS AND QUESTIONS HAVE ARISEN WHICH MAKE CONTRACTORS SUCH AS YOURSELVES UNCERTAIN ABOUT THEIR FUEL SUPPLY.

THE FEDERAL ENERGY OFFICE HAS MADE 1972 THE BASE YEAR FOR FUEL ALLOCATIONS. 1972 WAS NOT THE BEST YEAR ON WHICH TO BASE KANSAS FUEL ALLOCATIONS; HOWEVER, SINCE BAD WEATHER SLOWED WORK IN MOST AREAS ACROSS THE STATE. OBVIOUSLY, PROJECTS THIS YEAR MAY HAVE DIFFERENT FUEL REQUIREMENTS THAN LAST YEAR'S. SOME PROJECTS MAY BE MANY MILES FROM PREVIOUS WORK AREAS, AND IT IS OFTEN IMPRACTICAL FOR THE CONTRACTOR TO GO BACK TO HIS PREVIOUS SUPPLIER FOR FUEL. FINALLY, ADDITIONS OF EQUIPMENT AND CHANGES FROM GASOLINE TO DIESEL-BURNING ENGINES CAN ALTER FUEL REQUIREMENTS.

ALLOCATIONS

I HAVE BEEN IN FREQUENT CONTACT WITH BILL SIMON, HEAD OF THE FEDERAL ENERGY OFFICE, ABOUT YOUR SPECIAL FUEL NEEDS. CONTRACTORS IN GENERAL, HAVE RECEIVED SPECIAL ATTENTION IN THE FEDERAL ALLOCATION PROGRAM.

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IN THE NEW REGULATIONS, A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF FLEXIBILITY IS PROVIDED FOR, TO PERMIT CONTRACTORS TO GET FUEL WHEN AND WHERE THEY NEED IT.

THIS IS BY NO MEANS A GUARANTEE THAT YOUR FUEL PROBLEMS ARE OVER, HOWEVER, AND IF YOU HAVE DIFFICULTY, I HOPE YOU WILL CONTACT ME IMMEDIATELY.

SUPPLY SITUATION

AS A MATTER OF INTEREST TO YOU, IN MY CONVERSATION WITH BILL SIMON, HE CONFIRMED THAT MORE FUEL IS AVAILABLE AT PRESENT THAN THE FEDERAL ENERGY OFFICE HAD ORIGINALLY EXPECTED. THIS DEVELOPMENT HAS COME ABOUT AS A RESULT OF THREE TRENDS.

FIRST OF ALL, WEATHER IN 1973 -- IN MUCH OF THE NATION -- WAS UNUSUALLY WARM. IT HAS BEEN REGARDED IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY -- THOUGH, UNFORTUNATELY, NOT HERE -- AS THE WARMEST YEAR IN HISTORY. HOPEFULLY, THE COLD WEATHER WE HAVE BEEN HAVING RECENTLY IS NOT AN INDICATOR OF A CHANGE IN THIS WEATHER PATTERN.

SECONDLY, PEOPLE HAVE BEEN EXTREMELY COOPERATIVE IN CONSERVING FUEL. UP TO THIS POINT, PEOPLE HAVE SAVED ABOUT 18 PERCENT ON THE FUEL THEY NORMALLY CONSUME. THIS COOPERATION BY THE PUBLIC IS DOING A GREAT DEAL TO CONTRIBUTE TO ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF FUEL.

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THIRDLY, WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO IMPORT MORE FUEL THAN WAS
ORIGINALLY EXPECTED. MUCH OF THIS FUEL HAS BEEN COMING IN AT HIGHER
PRICES, BUT ALL THE SAME, THESE IMPORTS HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO A MORE
PLENTIFUL FUEL SITUATION.

GOOD CITIZEN COOPERATION

BILL SIMON SPECIFICALLY ASKED ME TO THANK EVERYONE I TALK TO
FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING COOPERATION IN THEIR FUEL CONSERVATION MEASURES.
IN ADDITION, HE EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR THE NUMEROUS COMMENTS WHICH
WERE SENT IN ON THE PROPOSED FUEL REGULATIONS PUBLISHED IN DECEMBER.
EVERY ONE OF THOSE COMMENTS SENT IN HAS BEEN READ AND ASSIMILATED INTO
THE NEW REGULATIONS WHICH ARE TO BE PUBLISHED TOMORROW, JANUARY 15th.
OF COURSE, NOT EVERYONE WHO WROTE IN GOT EVERYTHING HE WANTED.
NATURALLY, THIS COULD ONLY BE ACCOMPLISHED IF WE HAD ALL THE FUEL WE
NEED. SINCE THE FUEL SHORTAGE SITUATION EXISTS, THERE HAS NECESSARILY
BEEN A REQUIREMENT TO SET PRIORITIES. HOWEVER, IT APPEARS THAT THE
LAND CONTRACTORS' NEEDS WILL BE MET, AS WELL AS POSSIBLE, AND I
CERTAINLY WANT TO KNOW IF THERE SERIOUS SUPPLY DEFICIENCIES.

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COORDINATION SOUGHT

LAND CONTRACTORS CAN PROVIDE A TREMENDOUS SERVICE TO FARMERS BY WORKING WITH THE PLANNING BOARDS OF SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS TO COORDINATE THE PLANNING OF FARMERS FOR WORK THEY WANT AND NEED, WITH THE ASSURANCE OF GOOD FARM PLANS THAT MAY BE REQUIRED.

THIS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR CONTRACTORS TO LINE UP AND SCHEDULE WORK TO BE DONE IN ONE AREA OF THE COUNTY, AND GETTING FARMERS TO COORDINATE THEIR PLANS SO THAT WORK CAN BE POOLED OR PLANNED IN ORDERLY FASHION AND CONTRACTORS DON'T WASTE FUEL MOVING EQUIPMENT BACK AND FORTH ACROSS THE COUNTY.

AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT, LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT I WILL CONTINUE MY EFFORTS IN SUPPORT OF LONG-TERM CONSERVATION WORK THAT PROVIDES BROAD PUBLIC BENEFITS AND IS, IN REALITY, AN INVESTMENT IN KANSAS. HOPEFULLY, THE FEDERAL COST-SHARING FUNDS SPENT ON THE WORK YOU ARE DOING WILL HELP MAINTAIN OUR FARM PRODUCTION AT A HIGH LEVEL FOR MANY YEARS IN THE FUTURE.

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