

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF TRUCK STOP OPERATORS

WASHINGTON, D.C.

JUNE 14, 1979

IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE FOR ME TO BE HERE THIS MORNING. IT'S A GREAT PLEASURE TO BE ANYWHERE WHERE PEOPLE BELIEVE IN WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENT AND MAKING YOUR OWN LITTLE CORNER OF THE WORLD A BETTER PLACE. THAT'S WHAT THIS COUNTRY IS ALL ABOUT. AT LEAST, THAT'S WHAT WE'VE HISTORICALLY BELIEVED. IT'S THE IDEA THAT SET US APART FROM OTHER LANDS AND OTHER PHILOSOPHIES. WE BELIEVED IN PEOPLE AS MORE THAN SIMPLY THE MEANS OF PRODUCTION. WE BELIEVED IN MAKING PRODUCTION THE MEANS FOR A BETTER LIFE FOR ALL AMERICANS.

IT'S AN IDEA WORTH RETURNING TO. IT'S AN IDEA THAT SAYS THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH INDIVIDUAL SUCCESS, NOTHING WRONG WITH INCENTIVE, NOTHING WRONG WITH PROFIT.

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GOVERNMENT CAN HELP, BUT ONLY THE PRIVATE SECTOR CAN ULTIMATELY ACCOMPLISH ALL THAT MUST BE DONE. SO LET'S BELIEVE IN OUR GOVERNMENT, TO BE SURE, BUT LET'S HAVE A GOVERNMENT THAT FIRST OF ALL BELIEVES IN US.

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AND THAT INCLUDES FAITH IN BASIC INDUSTRIES SUCH AS YOURS. THREE FOURTHS OR MORE OF ALL CONSUMER GOODS IN THIS COUNTRY ARE MOVED BY TRUCKS. YOU, IN TURN, SERVE AMERICA'S TRUCKERS AT A TIME OF RISING FUEL PRICES AND DECREASED FUEL AVAILABILITY. NO ONE CAN HONESTLY PREDICT THAT FUEL PRICES WILL GO DOWN IN THE MONTHS AHEAD. BUT TRUCK STOPS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO GO INTO THE SPOT MARKET IN ORDER TO GET FUEL AND MAINTAIN CUSTOMERS.

I CAN'T TELL YOU THERE ARE ANY EASY ANSWERS. OVER THE LONG RUN, ONLY INCREASED PRODUCTION WILL MEET YOUR NEEDS. BUT SOME THINGS CAN BE DONE NOW. THIS WEEK, I TESTIFIED BEFORE SENATOR THOMAS EAGLETON'S SUBCOMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL EFFICIENCY. IN MY COMMENTS, I OPPOSED ADMINISTRATION PLANS TO REDUCE THE POWERS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY'S REGIONAL OFFICES OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS. AT A TIME WHEN GREAT CONFUSION EXISTS REGARDING GASOLINE ALLOCATION, WHEN A RECORD NUMBER OF CASES ARE BEING FILED, AND WHEN DIESEL SHORTAGES ARE APPROACHING CRISIS PROPORTIONS, NOW IS NO TIME TO CURTAIL FIELD OPERATIONS.

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AS YOU UNDOUBTEDLY KNOW, THERE ARE CASES PENDING BEFORE DOE WHICH ARE SEVERAL MONTHS OLD. THERE IS A WEALTH OF NEW AND COMPLICATED ENERGY REGULATIONS COMING OUT OF WASHINGTON, AND GENUINE HARDSHIP CASES AMONG DEALERS AND SUPPLIERS REQUIRE THE PRESENCE OF AN OFFICE TO HEAR SUCH APPEALS. YET THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAVING CREATED THIS MESS IN THE FIRST PLACE, NOW WANTS TO CONSOLIDATE OFFICES. IT'S WRONG FOR YOU, FOR TRUCKERS, FOR THE CONSUMER. AND I'M HOPEFUL THE CONGRESS WILL RECOGNIZE THIS IN TIME.

IN ADDITION, I HAVE JOINED WITH A NUMBER OF MY COLLEAGUES IN WRITING THE PRESIDENT ABOUT THE NATIONAL DISTILLATE SUPPLIERS. WE HAVE ASKED THAT SEVERAL STEPS BE TAKEN NOW.

1. THAT THE PRESIDENT ESTABLISH A GOAL OF 240 MILLION BARRELS TO BE IN PLACE BY OCTOBER 1.
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