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(202) 224-2315

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

## "WE TOLD YOU SO"

WASHINGTON -- Four United States Senators who opposed the decontrol of aviation fuel prices today said "We told you so" in commenting on the request of three major airlines for across-the-board fare increases by May 15 because of soaring prices of aviation jet fuel. Joining in the statement were Howard M. Metzenbaum (D-Ohio), Dale Bumpers (D-Ark.), John Durkin (D-N.H.) and Paul Tsongas (D-Mass.)

"On February 22, we fought the Department of Energy and the oil industry on the floor of the Senate in an effort to defeat the Administration's proposal to decontrol the price of jet fuel," said the Senators.

"At that time, we warned that the pressures on the price of jet fuel will be irresistible and that prices will soar. And we warned that the American people will pay for it. We warned against the poor timing of this move in the light of the Iranian situation and the fight against inflation.

"We warned that only a four cent a gallon increase could cost the American consumer \$600 million per year. We warned against believing the ridiculous projections of the Department of Energy which stated 'there would be no adverse impact' on price if decontrol was allowed.

"We warned that this move would totally violate the nation's inflation guidelines at a time when we should be marshalling all of our energies to fight inflation and we warned that the airlines have no great problem because they can pass their costs on to the American people -- and that is exactly what they are doing.

"The action of the three airlines vindicates the position that we took but we take no pleasure in the vindication -- especially when we know the impact this is going to have on the American consumer.

"We lost this battle, but we hope it will at least serve the purpose of alerting the Congress to the continuing pressures from the Department of Energy and the oil industry for more and more price increases that do nothing for the consumer except take money from their pocketbooks and put it in the treasuries of the oil companies," concluded the Senators.