

U.S. extends export credit to the Soviets

By Alan Montgomery
The Hutchinson News

WASHINGTON — The Bush Administration on Tuesday announced it will offer the food-strapped Soviet Union \$1.5 billion in agricultural credit — a plan developed and promoted by Sen. Bob Dole.

"This breakthrough announcement is welcome news for American farmers, especially our grain producers," Dole said Tuesday. "It was a tough issue and a tough call for the Congress and President Bush, and I salute his leadership as America deals with the Soviet Union in these challenging times."

The plan calls for selling corn,



wheat, soy bean meal and poultry to the Soviets on credit. The shipments would be sent in three installments, with strict pay-back provisions.

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"The bottom line is, we expect to be repaid; this is not a giveaway program," Dole, a Kansas Republican, said. "We will also demand fair distribution of our food among all Soviet Republics. We will not stand for any blackmail with our grain."

On May 15, the Senate passed a resolution to extend the grain credit to the Soviets. Dole had drafted the resolution, after working on it "for quite a while," according to Walt Riker, a Dole spokesman.

The senator had talked directly to President Bush about it, as well as to key leaders in the administration and to trade representatives of the Soviet Union, the Baltic States and a number of other Soviet republics, Riker said.

The credits will be offered in three installments: \$600 million this month, \$500 million in October and \$400 million in February 1992, he said.

In talks with Dole, the Soviets said they would encourage private enterprise to help in the distribution of the food products in their country, Riker said.

Congressman Dan Glickman, D-Kan., on Tuesday said he was pleased with the credit announcement — but he had some reservations.

"I will have to say, to be honest, this whole issue of credits to the Soviets has been extraordinarily mishandled by the administration. They announce that the Soviets aren't credit-worthy, then today, they are credit-worthy. ... They have not shown a great deal of decisiveness here."

The deal will be good for both Kansas and American agriculture, as well as for U.S.-Soviet relations, he said.

Tuesday's announcement comes a few months after the Persian Gulf war, during which the Soviets rolled tanks into the Baltic States to crack down on independence movements while the U.S. was preoccupied in the Gulf.

When asked if he trusted the Soviets, Glickman said, "I think they have to be watched."

Glickman also noted that human rights groups have confirmed that the Soviets, overall, have improved their human rights record in respect to immigration and treatment of minorities — despite their brutality in the Baltic States.

Dole backs B-2 bomber

The Capital-Journal

The controversial new B-2 stealth bomber should be salvaged despite the downsizing of the U.S. military, Sen. Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Thursday.

"It's easy for somebody out there to pick some target" and say it should be cut from the budget, he added — an apparent reference to the three-year campaign by Rep. Jim Slattery, D-Kan., to kill the program. "But we've got to be careful. You've got a different attitude on the Senate side than you have on the House side. What about five, 10, 15 years down the road?"

Defense Secretary Dick Cheney

told Dole he plans to chop a quarter of a trillion dollars out of the defense budget in the next five years, and that process is on schedule, Dole reported. But he recalled: "We had people making the same arguments against the B-52. We're still flying the B-52s. Plus, we've got to keep the technological edge."

In a telephone interview from Washington, Dole said "the stealth technology worked" in the Persian Gulf, and while it's good politics to say, "Kill the B-2, I support it. We ought to get behind it, build them — and keep the technological edge."

Government expenditures on the program to date total \$32 billion.

Dole presses for ouster of RTC regional director

By The Journal Staff

Mike Martinelli should find work as an art critic and leave the Resolution Trust Corp. regional headquarters in Overland Park, U.S. Sen. Bob Dole said Thursday in his weekly telephone press conference with Kansas journalists.

Dole, R-Kan., said Martinelli was meeting with RTC officials in Washington Thursday, and Dole was expecting news soon about Martinelli's future with the RTC.

On Wednesday, Dole and U.S. Rep. Pat Roberts, asked RTC Chairman William Seidman to fire Martinelli because they learned he had bought \$26,000 worth of art for his office.

Roberts was angered earlier this year when Martinelli took top-of-the-line executive furniture to his office from the failed Salina-based Peoples Heritage Federal Savings and Loan Association.

"This wasn't the first of the RTC problems, just the straw that broke the camel's back," Dole said. "Pat Roberts had the deal with the furniture, and I just let him run with that. But when this came up, I had to do something."

Jane Jankowski, spokeswoman for the RTC regional office, said late Thursday she had nothing to report about Martinelli's meeting in Washington.

Martinelli, who has not been available for comment, told the Washington Post he needed the art to boost morale among 500 employees.

"I don't think all 500 employees hang out in his office," Dole said.



Dole

Dole calls for investigation in wake of RTC art purchases

OVERLAND PARK, Kan. (AP) — Sen. Bob Dole has called for an internal investigation into the finances of the regional office of the Resolution Trust Corp.

He said Friday that the transfer to Washington of Mike Martinelli, regional director of the RTC's Overland Park office, would "not be the final chapter" in the matter.

"The taxpayers deserve a full accounting of how their money was spent and misspent in the Kansas City office," Dole said.

The transfer of Martinelli, regional director since 1989, was announced after he was criticized for spending \$26,000 on office art work.

The RTC said in a statement that Martinelli would be replaced temporarily by J. Paul Ramey, associate director of field resolutions. Martinelli's home phone number

was unlisted, and Jane Jankowski, spokeswoman for the RTC's regional office in Overland Park, said Martinelli was unavailable for comment.

Jankowski said no decision had been made on when the transfer would take place.

Martinelli had told The Washington Post he bought the artwork to create a pleasant working environment and to improve morale among his employees.

Earlier this week, Dole, R-Kan., and Rep. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., said that Martinelli should quit or be fired.

"I don't know all the details of the transfer, but I do know this will not be the final chapter in the Martinelli case," Dole said while in Kansas City, Kan.

Politics

Dole speeches lucrative

By BARRY MASSEY
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., earned \$78,100 in speaking fees last year and pocketed \$30,400 of it for personal use, according to financial reports released Friday.



Sen. Bob Dole

Two other senators collected more speaking fees, also known as honoraria, than Dole. However, Dole kept more than any other member of the Senate, according to an analysis of the reports by Common Cause, a group that advocates a ban on honoraria.

Dole donated \$47,700 of his speaking fees to charities, mostly to those in Kansas.

Sen. Nancy Kassebaum, R-Kan., has a policy of not accepting honoraria.

Dole earned the fees for delivering 43 speeches during 1990 and writing three editorial articles for

newspapers.

Members of the Senate can accept fees from special interest groups for appearances, speeches or articles and keep the money to supplement their salaries. But lawmakers are limited in the amounts they can pocket for personal use. Last year, senators could keep fees amounting to about 27 percent of their salaries.

Topping the honoraria list in 1990 was Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., who received \$82,230 in speaking fees and kept \$26,988. Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., earned \$78,900 and kept \$26,932.

Overall, Dole reported income in 1990 between \$226,730 and \$274,110. That includes his Senate leadership salary of \$108,666, all of his speaking fees, an Army pension of \$15,744, rental income and investment earnings.

Dole listed assets valued between \$448,000 and \$1.2 million. His holdings included certificates of deposit, mutual funds, a rental house in Russell and individual retirement accounts. Dole reported no liabilities.

Dole also reported accepting \$3,240 in gifts last year.

Kassebaum reported total income

between \$134,784 and \$197,858. That included her congressional salary of \$97,658, investment earnings and rent on farmland.

Kassebaum listed assets worth between \$1.6 million and \$3.9 million. Her most valuable holdings included stock worth up to \$1.6 million and commercial real estate in Wichita valued up to \$1.3 million. She also has an interest in about 1,900 acres in Morris County worth up to \$500,000 and 870 acres in Geary County worth up to \$100,000.

Kassebaum had liabilities of at least \$1.5 million and potentially in excess of \$2.1 million. The debts were for personal, business and real estate loans.

She reported selling stock in 1990 worth up to \$95,000 and oil property valued at a maximum of \$15,000.



SEN. BOB DOLE, the minority party (GOP) leader in the United States Senate, pauses to make a few off-the-cuff remarks here Saturday, June 8, at Midday, at the Russell Masonic Lodge. Dole, in town for the PrairieStar Parade, was at the Masonic Lodge to announce a new tenant for the downstairs portion of the Masons' building, at 601 Main St. The former home of Russell Food Mart will house a Dollar General Store. The store, expected to employ four to six people, is scheduled to open on or about Aug. 1. At left is Allan D. Evans, publisher of The Russell Daily News and The Russell Record.

(Staff Photo)

Dole Measure Passed by Senate; Allows Waiver of DL Application

WASHINGTON — Senator Bob Dole, R-Kan., announced Thursday that the Senate approved a Dole-sponsored measure which would allow states to waive application of the Commercial Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986 with respect to vehicles used to transport farm supplies from retail dealers to or from a farm; to vehicles used for custom harvesting; and to vehicles used to transport livestock feed, whether or not such vehicles are controlled or operated by the farmer. The measure was added as an amendment to the highway transportation bill, currently under debate in the Senate.

"The Senate has approved this waiver bill not knowing the prospect about what lies ahead in the House. Having blocked this common-sense legislation on several occasions, I hope that farm-state members of Congress will make every effort to see that this legislation is approved," said Dole.

Nearly two years ago, the U.S. Department of Transportation gave states the authority to waive commercial driver's license requirements for farm vehicles under the Motor Vehicle Safety Act of 1986. The majority of these particular seasonal agricultural activities were carried

out by agricultural retail outlets, not necessarily by farmers.

"DOT failed to recognize the importance of the custom-harvesting industry, which many farmers rely upon to harvest a seasonal, perishable crop. The same is true for livestock feed operations which provided a cost-effective service for farmers and cattle producers," added Dole.

These industries are markedly different from commercial trucking operations. Most of the driving is done off-pavement. They differ from other for-hire carriers because they only provide the initial transportation of grain from the field to storage, or to market, or to feedlots. These trucks average 15,000 miles per year and cannot be considered in the same category as commercial, long-haul trucking operations.

"Farmers face enough of an economic hardship without needlessly increasing operation and transportation costs. This measure is not an exemption from commercial driver's license requirements, rather it is a common-sense approach to give states the ability to set reasonable requirements for drivers of farm vehicles — who have an excellent safety record. It is quite probable that if this measure is not adopted, crops will go unharvested, farmers will find themselves short of needed supplies, and livestock producers will find themselves unable to secure adequate feed supplies," Dole said.

"This measure has more support today than it ever has. As we endeavor to pass this for the third time in two years, I call on my colleagues in the House to pass this measure as soon as possible."

Dole calls for investigation

OVERLAND PARK — Sen. Bob Dole, citing allegations of widespread abuse in the Midwestern office of the savings and loan bailout agency, wants a "full, independent" investigation of its spending practices.

Dole, R-Kan., made the request in a letter Tuesday to Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. Chairman William Seidman, a week after Mike Martinelli was removed as director of the regional office of the Resolution Trust Corp.

The RTC was created in 1989 to manage the taxpayer-funded bailout of the S&L industry. The agency has come under criticism recently for lax management.

Martinelli was transferred to Washington following reports he spent \$26,000 on artwork for the Overland Park office. Martinelli has defended the purchases, saying it improved the morale of his 500-member staff.