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WASHINGTON, D.C., April 29 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today predicted P.L. 480 -- the Food for Peace Program -- will be extended beyond Dec. 31, 1970, when the current program expires.

In a speech to the Millers' National Federation here, the Senator said, "P.L. 480 is one of the great milestones of agriculture legislation. It has moved food to the forefront of foreign economic assistance."

Dole, a member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, added, "I believe P.L. 480 will be extended, though as yet there has been no hint from the Nixon Administration on any change of direction."

"This constructive use of U.S. farm abundance is one of the most inspiring activities ever undertaken by any country in world history, and it should be extended," Dole said. "The program has helped the U.S. maintain its position as the world's leading exporter of food and fiber and shares U.S. abundance with friendly peoples abroad, effectively supplementing world agricultural trade."

Since P.L. 480 began 15 years ago, Dole said, the program has shown:

- *"Food is a potent force in relieving hunger and malnutrition";
- *"Food is a powerful means of meeting emergencies in the wake of disasters";
- * "Food strengthens and enlarges the humanitarian programs of the U.S. overseas";
- *"Food can help motivate people to help themselves build their own free societies";
- *"Food builds and will continue to build cash markets for American farm produce";
- *"That the foreign currencies generated can become an integral part of economic development and strengthens the U.S. balance of payments position," and
- *"That it can help prevent inflation in developing countries".

"In ~~addition~~, the program has contributed to our national well-being as well as to the volume of U.S. farm business," he said.

"We must not think of how to curtail or weaken it, but how to improve it."