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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 19 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.), in prepared remarks for agricultural writers and editors, in Washington today said most Americans know only half the story about the country's farming industry, and called on the agricultural press to expand its efforts "to communicate the needs of the farmer," which he equated with "the needs of the country."

Speaking at the National Press Club for the Newspaper Farm Editors of America association's annual banquet, Dole said:

We know in terms of income, working time and in comparison with other countries, food in America is a great buy; but not all of the 95 per cent of the American people who do not live on farms know agriculture's consumer story.

Dole pointed out that the per capita food expenditures in the United States from 1960 to 1970 increased only about one-eighth as much as per capita desposable incomes for the same period.

The Kansas Republican said farmers are not paid incomes commensurate to their work, and that the Nixon Administration is committed to making the needed adjustment. Dole said:

Last year farmers received only 78 per cent as much income as the non-farm people. That was an increase compared with the 55 per cent level in 1960, but far from the increases planned for by 1976.

Dole said Congress and the Executive Branch need to look for more permanent solutions to the problems of a declining farm. -

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population and of insufficient income for the remaining farmers. He said government reorganization could assist the farmer in that "proper reorganization of the federal government could go a long way in removing agriculture as a whipping boy by urban influences."

Dole said reorganization is not the ultimate solution to farm problems, but it is a general consensus that "government bureacracy has become top heavy and far removed from the people."

Dole continued:

Past administrations have struggled under the existing maze of uncoordinated departments and agencies of government, each adding patch upon patch and providing only temporary or negligible regional achievement. This Administration has valiantly attempted to tighten up procedures, to coordinate departments and agencies.

Dole, who serves on both the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Forestry and the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, and is also Chairman of the Republican National Committee, said he believes "future opportunity for America can and must be met with changes that will permit more rapid and flexible inter-agency action, plus more freedom for individual initiative."

"This," Dole said, "can only be brought about by grouping areas of responsibility having common characteristics."