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STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

Introduction of a Joint Resolution
For the Proclamation of the
"Day of Bread" and "Harvest Festival Week"

Wednesday, July 7, 1971

I am grateful to my many colleagues who join me in cosponsoring a Joint Resolution to call on President Nixon to proclaim October 5, 1971, as the "Day of Bread" and the week in which it falls as "Harvest Festival Week."

Centuries before time was recorded the conclusion of the harvest period was a time to conduct ceremonies acknowledging the blessings of the adequate provision of food. In different periods of time and various parts of the world this recognition has taken many forms. Even today harvest festivals are observed in many parts of the world ---celebrated for the grapes that make wine, the reaping of grain for bread, or for the stores of meat or fish for the larder.

Bread signifies the harvest of all crops --- of food itself. What better way to express it than in prayer, "Give Us This Day ..." and in recognition throughout the world. The "Day of Bread," therefore, has become a tradition. Twenty years ago it was officially recognized in Germany. Since then it has spread to many nations until it is now an "International Day of Bread." Last year, President Nixon's lead was followed by the governors of nearly every state and the mayors of many cities in proclaiming the "Day of Bread" as a part of the "Harvest Festival Week."

Emphasizing the importance of bread as the symbol of harvest week is the constant improvement that is being made in the nutritional quality of wheat grown and the flour milled and the bread baked. Farmers, millers, and bakers have all worked to improve the quality of their contribution to the process of providing bread. Today it is one of the most nutritious foods available and a key factor in combatting malnutrition throughout the world.

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Of significance this year is the fact that 1971 marks the 30th year of enrichment, whereby significant amounts of B-vitamins--- thiamine, niacin and riboflavin --- and the mineral, iron, are added to breadstuffs as part of the popular diet of this nation. As the 30th year of enrichment a greater dimension is brought to the "Day of Bread 1971."

The "Day of Bread" and the "Harvest Festival Week" have the wholehearted support of virtually all elements of the wheat and wheat products economy. They will arrange for appropriate observances in each of fifty states and many cities; and they will coordinate their efforts with similar groups in many foreign countries.

I urge the Senate to give speedy approval to this Joint Resolution for a "Day of Bread" and "Harvest Festival Week."