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WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 18, 1971 ---- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.)

praised the U.S. Department of Agriculture's action today to modify the funding of the National School Lunch Program for 1971-1972 which includes increasing the minimum average reimbursement rate to six cents a lunch from a previously proposed stateside average of five cents.

The Kansas Senator commented that the Department's announcement "demonstrates this Administration's sincere commitment to providing school lunches for all needy children."

Earlier this month, Dole called on members of the Senate to support additional funds for the program, pointing out that "Children with empty stomachs cannot learn." A member of the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, he explained that there is a direct relationship between nutrition and school success or failure.

These principal changes from the regulations for funding the lunch program were announced today by the U.S.D.A.:

The minimum average reimbursement rate guaranteed to the 50 states and the District of Columbia from Section 4 (general cash-for-food-assistance funds) has been increased to a Statewide average of six cents a lunch. This is a one cent increase, over the five cent average guarantee originally proposed.

The additional funding provided from Section 11 (special cash assistance funds) for free and reduced-price lunches has been increased to a minimum Statewide average of 40 cents a lunch. This is an increase of 10 cents over the 30 cent average reimbursement originally proposed.