



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE URGES PASSAGE OF S.J. RES. 197, DOCK STRIKE LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON, D.C., Feb. 8, 1972 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) urged final passage of the emergency legislation in the Senate to end the West Coast dock strike.

Speaking on the Senate floor, the Kansas Senator asked his colleagues why farmers should be forced to pay for the disputes between labor and management. He went on to point out that the West Coast dock strike is costing farmers \$6 million daily, and if the East and Gulf coast ports strike again, it will increase the cost to \$18 million daily.

Following is the Senator's full text.

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The American farmers have lost more than \$1 billion in export sales and lower commodity prices as a result of the dock strikes since last summer. Many of the export sales were to customers who have been loyal customers for U.S. wheat, feed grains, soybean products and other agricultural commodities.

Lost Markets

These nations have been forced to turn to other suppliers ---- and several have indicated they will never become obligated to the United States again for a major proportion of their supplies since the United States is no longer a reliable source for their needs.

Farmer Pays

Why should our farmers be forced to pay for the disputes between labor and management? Agricultural commodities, more than other commodities in our economic system, depend upon the

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export demand for price stabilization and increases. When exports slump, the prices paid to farmers slump. When large exports sales are made, prices rise and stabilize. The Department of Agriculture estimates that the West Coast dock strike is costing our farmers \$6 million a day, and if the East and Gulf coast ports strike again it will increase the cost to our farmers to \$18 million a day.

Congress Delays

For more than two years, legislation recommended by the President to provide a realistic solution to such strikes has been pending before Congress. The current bill, S. 560, is pending before the Senate Labor and Public Welfare Committee, and would provide a mechanism whereby both management and labor unions would be drawn to a final settlement agreement. This legislation becomes effective only in the case of transportation strikes that endanger the economy of the nation, such as we are experiencing in the present dock strike, but the committee has refused to act.

Balance of Payments

We are all aware of the tremendous growth in our imports, at a rate far exceeding the growth of our exports, causing a serious outflow of capital to other nations. Since 1893, the United States has enjoyed a favorable balance of trade as our exports exceeded our imports. Last year for the first time since 1893, the United States experienced a trade deficit ---- of \$2 billion. This situation should be of major concern to every member of the Congress, and they should make every effort to pass legislation that will assist in restoring a favorable balance of trade.

Emergency Measure

A continuation of the West Coast dock strike or a renewal of the East and Gulf coast strikes will cause still further damage to our economy. For the welfare of this nation ---- for the future of its farmers ---- I ask the support of my colleagues today in approving S.J. Res. 197, which will bring about an immediate cessation to the West Coast dock strike, and hopefully provide some means to our farmers to recoup some of the losses they have suffered as a result of the strike.

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