



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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WASHINGTON, D.C., FEB. 16, 1973 -- Senator Bob Dole said today that he cannot support the "phase-out" legislative proposal outlined by Administration officials Thursday.

"The legislative proposals outlined by USDA officials would "phase-out" the domestic certificate payment program over a four-year period and would force even more farmers to give up farming. In the past four years farm prices have increased for nearly all farm commodities, but the costs that the farmer must pay for his supplies and equipment have risen as well. The average farmer has hundreds of thousands of dollars invested in land and equipment, and he needs the income assurance provided by the domestic marketing certificate for wheat and other supplementary payments made on feed grains and cotton.

"Under the Administration's proposal, our farmers would be at the mercy of the USDA officials' ability to accurately predict future crop needs. Last summer's Russian grain sale and the difficulties we are currently experiencing because of the freight car shortages were not forecast by USDA officials. Under the present program some of our wheat farmers have already suffered unpredicted losses, but the administration's new proposal offers no protection against any future losses.

"If Secretary of Agriculture Butz wants to help our farmers, and I know he does," Dole said, " he should give full support to the five-year extension program that I have introduced and make some suggestions to prevent a recurrence of the inequities that resulted last summer for some wheat farmers. Phasing out domestic marketing certificate is not the answer."