



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

Joe Reppert—Press Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE -- FEBRUARY 17, 1973

## ADMINISTRATION CUTBACKS FOCUS ATTENTION ON FARM LEGISLATION

Washington, D.C., FEB. 17, 1973 -- As the 93rd Congress convened last month, plans were made for consideration of general farm legislation. At that time, to assure the continuation of the wheat, feed grains, dairy and wool programs, and the Food For Peace Program, Senator Bob Dole joined with Senator Milton Young of North Dakota to introduce a bill (S.517) which would extend the present farm ~~programs~~ for five years.

"Kansas farmers have generally indicated to me that they are pleased with these programs," Dole said. "It enables them to plant those crops which are most profitable to their particular operation."

Two factors of the present program which Dole feels need a closer look and may result in amendments to this bill (S.517) are :

-- the method of determining domestic marketing certificate payments to avoid a recurrence of the inequities resulting from the Russian wheat sale of last summer; and

-- proven yield provisions for wheat allotments have several weaknesses and need close scrutiny in considering new farm legislation.

\* \* \*

Last week Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Carroll Brunthaver outlined the Administration's desires for farm legislation provisions in a briefing for the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee. Essentially the Administration is asking for:

-- a four-year extension of the present farm program;

-- a phase-out of the income supplement portion of the



present commodity farm program; and

-- consolidation of commodity allotments into a cropland allotment for each farm to allow complete freedom of choice in planting beyond a basic set aside requirement.

"I can in no way support these proposed changes as they provide no security to our farmers," Dole said. "Presently the farmer is at the mercy of the markets and cannot control the price he receives for the grain he produces. In order to continue farming he has had to invest in additional land and equipment, often extending his borrowing further than he would have preferred. He had justified this expansion through the assurances that were provided him in farm legislation.

"To phase-out the income supplement payment -- the domestic marketing certificate for wheat and direct payments for feed grains and cotton will force many farmers to cut back their operations or even leave the farm for work with a more promising future."

\* \* \*

Recently the Administration announced several cutbacks in spending that drastically effected Kansas farmers. These were the termination of the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP), the conversion of the 2 per cent direct loan program for Rural Electric Cooperatives to a 5 per cent insured or guaranteed loan program through the Farmers Home Administration, and the cessation of the Emergency loan provisions for natural disasters.

As a member of the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee, Dole asked that hearings on these cutbacks be conducted to evaluate their purpose and to determine how Congress could reinstate the valuable practices these cutbacks made to Kansas farmers.

Consequently, Dole has co-sponsored a bill to reinstate the REA Direct Loan program. This bill was considered by the Senate Agriculture Committee and reported to the Senate. It is scheduled for consideration this week, and it appears that it has a good chance of being passed.