



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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WASHINGTON, D.C., FEB. 13, 1973 -- Senator Bob Dole has been a member of the Agriculture and Forestry Committee since his election to the Senate in 1968. Prior to that he served on the Agriculture Committee of the U.S. House for eight years (1960-68). Dole has continuously been involved in working for the interests of Kansas farmers and rural residents.

The Kansas Senator is presently working in the following areas in the U.S. Senate:

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Hearings on farm legislation are scheduled for February 27, 28, and March 1, 2, 8, and 9. Senator Dole indicated that these hearings will cover the full range of legislation that the Agriculture Committee plans to consider this year. To be included in the hearings will be the discussion of the following items:

COMMODITY PROGRAMS --the consideration of wheat allotments, production controls, price support levels, domestic and export subsidies, export promotion and regulation, and diversion requirements. Similar consideration will be given to the feed grain and cotton programs.

DAIRY PROGRAMS -- the extension of the present program of milk marketing orders, Class I Base plans and milk price support levels will be examined.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS -- the review and discussion of school lunches, and school milk and commodity distribution to welfare recipients.

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ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION -- legislation will be discussed in regard to the excessive restrictions that would be placed on agriculture. The Committee wants to make the nation aware of the conservation practices that farmers have been implementing for years.

CONSUMER PROTECTION -- legislation proposed in the last Congress aimed at stifling farm operations and marketing of agricultural products to be discussed.

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Senator Dole introduced a bill on January 23, 1973, which provides for a five year extension of the wheat, feed grains, dairy, cotton, wool, and Food For Peace programs. Dole indicated that some amendments to the programs are needed, but that Kansas farmers generally have indicated their acceptance of the options these programs provide. We particularly need some provision to assure our farmers that they will receive full benefits of any wheat sales such as occurred last summer, said the Kansas Senator. Another item to be corrected by the bill is the proven yield program, whereby farmers would be able to improve their historic yields in relation to their assigned allotments.

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A resolution calling for suspension of CCC loading orders and sales of wheat was supported by Senator Dole in the Agriculture Committee and is scheduled for consideration on the Senate floor soon.

* Commodity Credit Corporation

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Increased feed costs have put dairy farmers in an operating loss position and Dole has introduced a bill which would require an increase in dairy price support levels to improve dairy farmers' incomes. If prices are not increased, many farmers plan to disperse their herd; this would result in less production and substantial price increases to the consumer.

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Senator Dole participated in Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee hearings on recent cutbacks in conservation practices of the Rural Environmental Assistance Program (REAP), Rural Electrification Administration (REA) loans and increased wheat acreage. Following these hearings Dole supported the Committee vote to favorably report a bill that would reinstate the REA loan program.

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The Senate Agriculture Committee favorably reported a bill introduced by Dole which provided for inspection of rabbit processing plants such as the Kansas Meat Products plant in Hill City, Kansas. This legislation will assist in the continued operations of this plant which enables farmers to supplement their income by raising rabbits.

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