



NEWS from -5-

U.S. Senator Bob Dole

723

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

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ASKING FOR AN ASSESSMENT OF WHEAT SUPPLIES AND REQUIREMENTS BY MILLERS AND BAKERS

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1974

WILL THERE BE ENOUGH WHEAT?

Mr. President, there has been much discussion in the past few weeks with regard to the wheat supply and demand situation in this country for the remainder of the 1973-74 marketing year (June 30, 1974).

The Committee on Agriculture and Forestry attempted to get to the bottom of the problem during recent hearings as a result of charges by the baking industry that bread would reach a dollar a loaf unless action were taken to curb exports. Unfortunately, those hearings did nothing to reassure the bakers that there would be adequate domestic supplies.

It is interesting to note, Mr. President, that some of the very people who are talking the loudest about dollar a loaf bread are at the same time reassuring their stockholders they have sufficient flour contracted to last until the new harvest begins in June. Apparently some of those who mill the wheat and bake the bread have adequate supplies, and some others do not.

Export controls would be disastrous to our wheat producers who have been asked to produce more wheat than ever this year. Now as that crop is just about to start the final growth cycle toward harvest in June-July, the farmer is fearful of the threat of export controls and what those controls would do to the price they will receive for their wheat.

This morning an official of the nation's largest grain cooperative, FAR-MAR-CO., Inc. in Hutchinson, Kansas, informed me that they had 24 million bushels of wheat purchased from local elevators that has not been shipped. The past week I have received similar reports from several other large grain companies as well as many of the grain elevators located in the wheat producing areas that they had 50 to 100 cars of wheat sold, but were unable to ship because of a lack of railroad equipment in which to ship it.

Mr. President, in order to get at the real facts . . . to locate the wheat and flour that does exist . . . and to evaluate the demand and wheat and flour and of millers and bakers, and, Mr. President, in order to put this matter to rest, I am today offering a concurrent resolution and ask for its immediate consideration, which does three things:

1. It expresses the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture conduct an immediate survey of all millers and bakers in the country to determine exactly what their wheat and flour needs for the remainder of this marketing year are.

2. It requests the Secretary of Agriculture to conduct a county-by-county survey of farmers and warehouses to determine exactly how much wheat is uncommitted at the present time and is available for sale to millers and bakers.

-2-

3. It urges the Secretary of Agriculture and the Interstate Commerce Commission to work together to expedite transportation of existing wheat stocks to millers and bakers in need of additional supplies.

Mr. President, this is the only way we will ever know the true dimensions of the current wheat situation, and I believe this would be tax dollars well spent to conduct the comprehensive survey requested in this resolution. In addition, there is a continuing need for better transportation.

I hope the Senate will take this step with all deliberate speed, Mr. President, in order that we can assure our citizens that there will be bread at reasonable prices or so the Administration can take speedy action if it does appear there will be a wheat shortage.

It has come to my attention that the National Grain and Feed Dealers Association has projected a carryover supply of 150 million bushels of wheat above the domestic and export need. Their figures are based on a domestic consumption of 190 million bushels and exports of 505,771,000 bushels against the Department of Agriculture's report of wheat stocks available as of February 15 of 744,771,000. While this is a smaller than desirable carryover figure, in the face of the promising record-breaking harvest it is only fair that a more accurate assessment be made at this time to avoid the disastrous effects that would be the result of export controls or other actions suggested by the threat of an insufficient or deficit supply.

In addition, foreign buyers who already have contracted purchases ahead at current rates would enjoy a great reduction in price that would result from any form of export controls, all at the cost of our wheat-producing farmers.

93d Congress
2d Session

S. Con. Res. 70

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. Dole submitted the following concurrent resolution;

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RELATING TO SUPPLY OF WHEAT FOR DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION DURING THE REMAINDER OF THE 1973-74 MARKETING YEAR.

RESOLVED BY THE SENATE, That it is the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture should immediately conduct a survey of all wheat milling firms and bakeries to determine their position with regard to wheat supplies and requirements during the remainder of the 1973-74 marketing year.

Sec. 2. It is further declared to be the sense of Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture at the earliest practicable date, conduct a county-by-county survey to determine the amount of uncommitted wheat stocks remaining in the ownership of all grain dealers and farmers.

Sec. 3. It is further declared to be the sense of the Congress that the Secretary of Agriculture work with the Interstate Commerce Commission to expedite transportation of existing wheat stocks to the millers and bakers in need of additional supplies.

Sec. 4. The Secretary of the Senate shall transmit copies of this resolution to the Secretary of Agriculture and Chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission after it has been agreed to by both Houses of Congress.

The Concurrent Resolution passed the Senate today by voice vote.

####