



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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

Joe Reppert—Press Secretary

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HIGH FOOD PRICES SYMPTON OF INFLATION, NOT ITS CAUSE, SAYS DOLE

Kiowa, Kansas -- "If the housewife ever does pay a dollar a loaf for bread," says Senator Bob Dole, "it won't be because the farmer is getting rich."

In remarks prepared for delivery at the O.K. Grain Co-Op dinner in Kiowa Saturday night, Dole explained that the high costs of labor, and materials which go into the production of food as well as the rising cost of production to the farmer himself, are responsible for higher food prices. "I am only asking that people realize that rising food prices are not the cause of inflation," Dole says. "They are just one of its most visible symptoms."

Dole said that this misunderstanding remains a major problem for agriculture. He cited testimony by AFL-CIO President George Meany, who blames heavy agricultural exports for domestic shortages and the rapid acceleration of inflation, as an example of this misunderstanding.

Dole challenged critics of agricultural exports, transactions like the Russian wheat sale, to explain how it contributed to general inflation, and "to explain how higher wheat prices could have caused the price of a tractor to climb from \$8,000 to \$15,000 or higher."

Dole also told the group that he had requested that field hearings on grain transportation problems be held in Kansas during harvest time "so that we might develop possible legislative remedies to improve the transportation system."