



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE SCORES FEDERAL TAKE-OVER OF GRAIN INSPECTION

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Senator Bob Dole today repeated his opposition to the Grain Inspection bill as reported by the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee, and presented for discussion his three amendments that would modify the bill.

"Many supporters of the federal take-over as provided in the Committee bill continually voice support for cutting back federal involvement. Yet they appear to be prepared to vote for unnecessary and costly federal regulation in this case," Dole said. "To be consistent with holding back the size of the federal bureaucracy, these Members should support my amendments which would limit the federal role to those areas where a clear need has been established."

Dole, the leading Republican on the Agriculture Committee, said that while the grain inspection system needs improvement, "provisions of the Committee bill go too far in creating another layer of federal bureaucracy to harass buyers and sellers of grain. The Committee bill would put many highly regarded state and private inspection agencies -- who have not been implicated in any way during the recent 'scandals' or subsequent investigations -- out of business and would also increase the costs of inspection thereby lowering the price farmers receive for their grain."

Dole's amendments would:

- delete provisions that would federalize the 25 major inland grain handling market
- stop the creation of a special federal agency to supervise the inspection of grain, separately from the inspection of other agriculture commodities
- strike the section providing for registration of all large grain companies and cooperatives (this provision is already contained in other parts of the Committee bill, as well as already existing state and federal regulations).

"All proven cases of malfeasance and resulting indictments have been at major export terminals," Dole pointed out in floor debate. "There has not been a single indictment at any of the 25 major inland terminals. Increased federal supervision of state and private inspection agencies would provide additional protection at a lower cost and in a more efficient manner than would complete federalization of the system."

The Kansas Senator said an entirely new agency for federal grain inspection would mean needless duplication of services already under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Marketing Service of the Department of Agriculture. USDA has estimated additional administrative costs for the new agency would be a least \$1.5 million per year.

"The Committee bill contains several provisions for enforcement and a separate registration provision for all large grain companies and even many small cooperative and country elevators -- at a cost of \$1.6 million -- would unnecessarily duplicate other enforcement procedures," Dole said. "With my amendments," he emphasized, "the bill would still provide extensive reform to prevent future violations such as we saw last year at Gulf ports."