



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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COMMITTEES COMPLETE WORK ON DOLE TARGET PRICE BILL, MEAT IMPORT AMENDMENTS

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The Senator Agriculture Committee today approved a bill introduced by Senator Bob Dole designed to assist the nation's wheat farmers. Dole's bill would raise the target price for 1978 crop wheat from \$3.00 to \$3.40. The bill is for one year.

Dole, ranking Republican on the Agriculture Committee, said that "legislation is needed to assist wheat farmers today. They are in serious financial trouble and while I believe more assistance is need than that contained in my bill, this is all the President has said he would sign into law."

"Since this was the top target price level that the President will agree to, I want to make certain farmers get at least the benefit of this increase," Dole said. "I am hopeful Congress will act quickly so farmers can plan. They need to make decisions now as to their participation in the 1978 farm program.

In other Committee action today, the Senate Finance Committee completed work on a bill to amend the meat import Quota Act of 1964. This bill, nearly identical to a bill introduced earlier by Dole, provides for a counter-cyclical formula to be used in determining the quota of meat imports, and will more closely regulate the importation of meat throughout the calendar year. Dole said the change in formula "will prevent the extreme fluctuations in meat and cattle prices we have witnessed in recent years. Consumers will be protected against the extreme high prices that provoked the meat boycott, and cattle producers will be protected against the drastically low prices of the past three years."

The conter-cyclical change means that when domestic production of meat is low and prices climbing, more meat will be imported; when domestic meat production is plentiful, imports will be limited.