



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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April 25, 1978  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## DOLE SAYS CONGRESS AND ADMINISTRATION SEEMS READY TO ACCEPT MODIFIED FLEXIBLE PARITY

WASHINGTON, D.C.....Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan) said today, "The Congress and the Administration seem ready to accept a modified flexible parity farm bill to help the nations farmers."

Dole, ranking Republican on the Agriculture Committee, said information he has received indicates the Emergency Agricultural Act of 1978 will be sent back to conference with a plan to give the Secretary of Agriculture the flexibility to raise target prices on wheat, feed grains and cotton above the levels presently set by law.

The Kansas Senator said the Secretary already has the flexibility to determine the level of set-asides for these major crops. "Now if the Congress give the Secretary the flexibility to set target prices in order to gain program participation and help reduce surpluses the Secretary will have the authority to implement most of the provisions contained in the original flexible parity farm bill."

The major difference, Dole reported, is that the Secretary will have the authority to determine set-aside levels and target prices for each farm instead of the farmer himself. "I believe the farmer could determine this better than the Secretary. Letting the Secretary have the authority is better than what we have now though."

"Its seems strange to me, " Dole said, "that just a few days ago the Administration was 100% against the flexible parity concept and now they seem to be ready to embrace the basic idea by letting the authority rest with the Secretary rather than the farmer."

"This would seem to go along with the Administrations idea that the farmers problems can better be solved by the bureaucrats in Washington than by the farmers themselves."

"I am pleased the Administration has done a sudden turn-about and now is supporting a modified flexible parity. Farmers will benefit from this because it was a good plan and would help solve the problems presently faced by farmers."