



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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Dole Says Basic Concept of Flexible Parity Adopted By Senate-House Conference Committee

Washington, D.C...."The basic concept of flexible parity was adopted today by the Senate-House Agriculture Conference Committee except that the control over the set-aside and target price now rests with the Secretary of Agriculture rather than with the farmer," Senator Bob Dole said today.

Dole, the ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, said, "I believe we can claim partial victory for the flexible parity concept. The concept is there to increase the target price to the farmer as the acre set-aside is increased."

"This is only half a loaf for the farmer but there wasn't any choice if we wanted to help the wheat and cotton farmer this year. The Administration made it very clear that this is all they would accept and not veto," the Kansas Senator stated.

Dole said the Administration doesn't seem to quarrel with the flexible parity concept as long as they have their hand on the control lever. "They want to control the loan rate, the set-aside percentage, and now the increase in target prices."

Under questioning by Senator Dole, the U.S.D.A. spokesman stated that if the authority to raise target prices was given to the Secretary the 1978 target price for wheat would be raised to \$3.40. The U.S.D.A. representative also stated, in answer to a question by Dole, that there was no ceiling on the target price and the price could be raised to parity with an adequate level of set-aside.

The bill adopted by the Conference Committee stated in part, "Notwithstanding any other provision of the law, whenever a set-aside is in effect for one or more of the 1978 through 1981 crops of wheat, feed grains and upland cotton, the Secretary is authorized to increase the established price for any such commodity by such amount as he determines appropriate to compensate producers for participation in any such set-aside."