



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 1978

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DOLE SAYS GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS ARE WORKING AGAINST THE COTTON FARMER

LUBBOCK, Texas -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that government programs and regulations are working to smother the cotton industry in the United States.

He said the Administration, in its refusal to adopt innovative new government policies, has turned down measures that could provide cotton farmers and other agricultural producers with a reasonable prospect of making a decent profit. Dole spoke at a GOP fundraiser dinner.

"Let's face it," Dole said. "Lubbock area cotton producers have enough problems coping with Mother Nature. The last thing they need is to have their government ignore their pleas for help. There are many things government can and should do for cotton farmers."

Dole said the Administration was dragging its feet on measures that would increase exports of American agriculture products.

"Most of the cotton grown here is exported and I believe we should be doing everything possible to break down trade barriers, to encourage the purchase of Texas cotton by all the nations of the world," he said. "We should insist on strong farm representation on the multilateral trade talks in Geneva."

Dole struck out at OSHA's cotton dust standards as being costly to the cotton farmer.

"I know we all share a strong concern for worker health and safety," he said. "But the cotton dust standards proposed by OSHA could cost nearly \$2 billion. Such huge expenditures threaten the livelihoods of nearly four million people who depend on cotton for a living.

"The loss of jobs and a severely contracted cotton industry have a most serious impact on communities such as Lubbock and others across the Cotton Belt. Moreover, the proposed OSHA standards are highly inflationary and can only exacerbate the double-digit inflation already introduced to our economy during the last year."