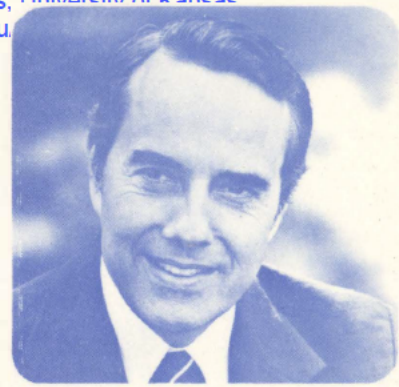


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## SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE PASSES LAND DIVERSION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C.....The U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee Tuesday passed a land diversion program for the 1980 crops of wheat and corn. The bill was sponsored by Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan) and Sen. Rudy Boschwitz (R-Minn.).

Under the bill the Secretary of Agriculture would establish a diversion program to reduce 1980 wheat and feed grain production. Payment for the idled land would be based on a rate of \$1.50 per bu. for wheat and \$1.25 per bu. for corn multiplied by the average number of bushels normally produced on the idle land.

Sen. Dole said, "In order to reduce production in 1980 and also to limit the impact on the budget a cap of \$500 million was placed on the program. The \$500 million would be split \$175 million for wheat and \$325 million for corn."

"I feel this program has a good chance of passing and will help to reduce production in 1980. The reduced production should help prices and help offset the negative effects of the grain embargo. To reduce production enough to totally offset the embargo would have cost over \$1 billion. The committee did not feel the budget deficit should be increased by that amount."

Dole said, "The Agriculture Committee will be considering in the future additional actions that can be taken to offset the embargo. On March 19 the Committee will consider legislation to increase target prices, increase loan rates and other price support measures. The work of the Committee has been made difficult because the U.S.D.A. and the Administration will not support measures that would be effective to help the farmer."