

# BOB DOLE



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## ADMINISTRATION HAS BROKEN FAITH WITH AMERICAN FARMER ON GRAIN EMBARGO

GREAT BEND, Kan.-- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today charged the Carter Administration with "breaking faith with the American farmer over the Soviet grain embargo."

Speaking at a Kiwanis meeting here, Dole called on the President to honor the commitment he made to farmers to offset any adverse impact the embargo might have.

"It is clear what this policy has done," Dole said. "In the past few months, inflation and interest rates have soared, and these have created the same hardships for farmers as they have for all Americans.

"But the farmer has had to endure special problems which are the direct result of the Soviet grain embargo. In addition to nearly 20% inflation and 20% interest rates, the farmer can count a loss of nearly 20% in total farm income. This can be blamed largely on the severe drop in grain prices. Coupled with a 20% rise in production costs, the farmer comes out the big loser in the current round of economic roulette.

"I think the President realized the harsh consequences this embargo would have on the farming community when he promised to provide some sort of compensation. But we have seen absolutely no cooperation from the President in terms of making good on this promise.

"Just two weeks ago I, along with fellow Agriculture Committee member Senator Rudy Boschwitz (R.-Minn.), put together a comprehensive relief package for the American farmer. This bill included significant increases in the loan rate for corn and wheat and a workable land diversion program. Unfortunately, it now sits languishing in the Senate because the Administration, in these days of budget cutting, does not want to see this bill passed," said Dole.

### Don't Want a Handout

"Farmers are not asking for a handout. They are simply asking this Administration to live up to its promise. One economic group cannot be singled out to pay the price for our foreign policy failures without providing some form of compensation," added Dole.

"We in the Senate have provided an easy way to do just that, and farmers should know that the Administration has responded by turning its back," Dole said.