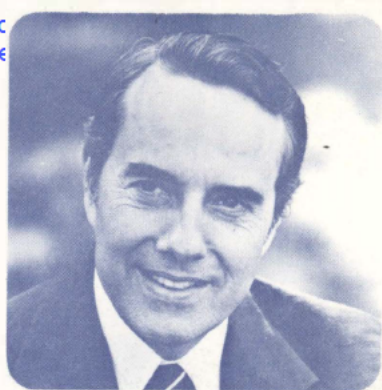


BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE
5 A.M. FRIDAY, MAY 15, 1980

CONTACT: MORGAN WILLIAMS
(202) 224-6521

DOLE SAYS MIDWEST MAY BE PRESIDENTIAL BATTLEGROUND

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today the Midwest could prove to be a real battleground between Governor Reagan and President Carter.

Dole said both Reagan and Carter have won significant primary victories in the Midwest in Kansas, Texas, Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Nebraska.

"The Midwest will be important to both camps and both campaigns will have to put special emphasis on the swing states in that part of the country," Dole said. "This battle should prove one of the most interesting in the 1980 campaign.

"With the farm economy in a depression, the Carter campaign will be on the defensive to justify their cheap food farm programs. This should provide a real opportunity for Governor Reagan.

"Reagan can easily attack the 100 percent Carter farm program comprising 20% inflation, 20% interest rates, a 20% decline in prices, a 20% increase in costs, and 20% of the farmers going bankrupt.

"I believe Governor Reagan will make deep inroads into the farm community across the Midwest. His policies of a free enterprise agricultural economy based on a minimum of government intervention will appeal to farmers who are sick and tired of roller-coaster farm programs and grain embargoes.

"I will be working closely with Governor Reagan to develop farm policies that will be responsible and will appeal to the farmers in the Midwest. Farmers are angry, frustrated and disillusioned with President Carter and Secretary Bergland. This should make them open to considering the candidacy of Governor Reagan. I believe Reagan will meet this challenge and will carry the farm-belt states in the Midwest."