

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE INTRODUCES BILL TO IMMEDIATELY RESCIND SOVIET GRAIN EMBARGO

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today introduced legislation which would rescind the Soviet grain embargo. According to Dole, "The embargo action is falling apart. There are too many holes in the system. The embargo is now very counter-productive. We've put our farmers and exporters in a straight jacket, while all the other exporting nations apparently are free to sell."

Joining Dole as co-sponsors are Senators Nancy Landon Kassebaum (R.-Kansas), George McGovern (D.-S.D.), Larry Pressler (R.-S.D.), Rudy Boschwitz (R.-Minn.), Edward Zorinsky (D.-Neb.), Milton Young (R-ND) Henry Bellmon (R.-Okla.), and Roger Jepsen (R.-Iowa).

The Dole bill states, "That any restrictions heretofore imposed by the President on the export and reexport of agricultural commodities to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics under the authority of the Export Administration Act of 1979 are terminated effective on the date of enactment of this Act."

Upon introducing the bill, Dole stated, "I have opposed such embargoes for many years. American farmers have suffered financially as grain prices dropped, the U.S. balance of payments have been hurt, the U.S. taxpayer has had to pick up almost \$3 billion in extra government costs, the value of the dollar has been hurt, interest rates and inflation were pushed up and the Soviet Union has replaced much of the grain by buying in the international markets."

Terrible Decision

"I said, back in January, that the embargo was one of the worst economic decisions in the history of our country. I thought then, and still do, that the decision was irresponsible," added Dole.

"In January, those who criticized the embargo as ineffective, unfair, and more damaging to the U.S. than to the Soviet Union, were criticized as unpatriotic. I and many others believe the record will now show we were correct in our criticism," Dole said.

"On Saturday, January 5, I said the fact of the matter is that President Carter took a poke at the Soviet Union and knocked out the American farmer. I called upon the President then, and now I call upon the Congress to rescind this ill-advised action," said Dole.