

BOB DOLE



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CARTER ADMINISTRATION PLAYS POLITICS WITH AMERICAN FARMER

DETROIT, MICHIGAN.....Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan) said today, "The Carter Administration is playing politics with the American farmer by waiting until the election campaign heats up before they raise farm price supports."

Dole, chairman of the Agriculture Subcommittee of the Platform Committee at the Republican National Convention, said it was reported by The Washington Post that Carter was moving toward raising farm price supports because the Administration is nervous about low farm prices and their possible impact on the election.

The Kansas Senator said, "Farm price supports have needed to be raised for many months. The Carter Administration has let farmers suffer under low farm prices and have refused to support legislation in the Congress to raise loan rates for grain put into the farmer held reserve. The Administration has actively fought legislation I supported that passed the Senate Agriculture Committee.

"It now appears they will do another flip-flop and support changes in the farm program that are long overdue. It is obvious the Carter Administration is not concerned about the survival of the family farm--they are only concerned about the survival of the Carter Administration.

"I just don't believe farmers will be fooled by any last minute effort by the Carter Administration to support farmers. The poor record of the last four years cannot be changed by one last ditch effort. Farmers will just not forget how they have been treated by a President and a Secretary who claimed four years ago to be friends of the farmer.

"Carter has been unpopular in farm areas for many months. With the embargo, high interest rates, double digit inflation, low grain prices and record increases in farm costs farmers have been frustrated with the Carter-Bergland farm program. I always felt sometime before the election the Administration would try to pull a rabbit out of the hat and try to cover up their record. It appears the first steps have been taken."