

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FRIDAY, JULY 25, 1980

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DOLE TO PRESS FOR ACTION BY FULL SENATE ON HIS FARM BILL. WILL OFFER AMENDMENT GRAIN

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) said today he is pressing for quick action by the full Senate on his farm bill (S. 2639), which has been passed by the Agriculture Committee, to "help mitigate the adverse effects of the Soviet grain embargo."

Dole said, "I have talked to other farm state Senators and we are all working to get rapid action in the Senate on this bill. I believe the time to assist our farmers is now."

Dole said when the bill is brought to the Senate floor he will offer an amendment to raise loan rates for wheat and feed grains. "I believe loan rates should be higher and have tried to get the Secretary of Agriculture to raise them for many months. I believe the wheat loan rate should be raised to approximately \$3.00 per bushel and the corn loan rate to approximately \$2.25 per bushel. I am working to gain support for these levels," said Dole.

Help Farmers

"My amendment would raise loan rates and thus would automatically raise the release and call levels for wheat and feed grains. The release level is at least 140 percent of the loan and the call level is at least 175 percent of the loan. This would help farmers and not let reserve stocks of grain be dumped on the market on top of harvest supplies at such low price levels."

The Dole farm bill as reported from the Agriculture Committee would set up a "special" or "two tier" loan rate for wheat and feed grains that go into the farmer-held reserve. The special rate would be \$3.30 per bushel for wheat and \$2.25 per bushel for corn. Corn state Senators are expected to offer an amendment to raise the corn level to \$2.40 per bushel when the bill is considered by the Senate.

The Dole-McGovern farm bill also sets up a special 5 year humanitarian food reserve of 4 million metric tons of wheat. This will utilize the wheat the government purchased from the farmer because of the grain embargo. It would allow it to be used only for food relief and not allow the wheat to be put on the domestic grain market.