

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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FARMERS NEED STRONG VOICE IN WASHINGTON DURING 1980's

DODGE CITY, KANSAS.....Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan) said today, "Farmers will need a strong voice in Washington during the 1980's. The Secretary of Agriculture and those of us on the House and Senate agriculture committees will have to speak loud and clear if farmers are to have an influence in governmental policy."

In a speech to the Dodge City Lions Club Dole said, "Farmers' income will be affected more in the 1980's by monetary, fiscal and foreign policy than by commodity price supports, farmer-held reserves or the 1981 farm bill. Farmers have found under the Carter administration that interest rates, inflation rates and grain embargoes affect their income drastically."

Dole said, "Under the Carter administration the voice of the Secretary of Agriculture has just become another 'voice in the wilderness.' Farm policy and income has been affected more by the voice of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), the Treasury Department, the Domestic Council and the State Department than by the Agriculture Department."

"It will be especially important in the 1980's that farmer have representatives in Washington in the Congress, in USDA and in their farm organizations who will have enough clout to affect our monetary, fiscal and foreign policies. Farmers cannot survive with policies that produce double digit interest and inflation rates and grain embargoes," Dole told the Lion's Club members.

"Farmers will have to become more active in government. Farmers will have to have an influence on legislation that is originated in the various Congressional committees, not just the Agriculture Committee. The time has come for farmers to speak up and for their representatives in Washington to speak up. I intend to continue my work for farmers and to be a strong voice for them in Washington during the 1980's," Dole said.

"My ranking positions on the Agriculture Committee and the Finance Committee will give me a unique position to speak up for farmers. These are two of the most powerful committees in the Senate and their work and legislation have major effects on farmers," Dole said.