

NEWS RELEASE!

Senator Bob Dole

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CARTER HAS LOST TOUCH WITH FARM REALITIES, DOLE SAYS

GOODLAND, Kan. -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) charged today that President Carter "has lost touch with the reality of farm economics in America."

Dole, a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, reacted sharply to a major Carter farm speech taped Saturday in Toledo, Ohio, to be shown across the nation this week. In that speech, Carter said he has acted to bring price supports and loan rates back in line with production costs.

"Of course, what he failed to say," Dole said, "was that his actions came months after the fact and were too little, too late. He showed no sense of concern for the financial losses suffered by farmers, for the crippling interest payments farmers have had to make, for the huge rise in fuel prices, or for the 10 to 15 percent yearly increases in production costs that farmers have tried to absorb during the past four years of this Administration."

"President Carter is once again trying to place the blame for his failures on someone else, when blame can be placed directly on his shoulders. The President has blamed the Soviets, the Fed, and even farmers themselves for the difficulties family farmers find themselves in. On Saturday, he tried to blame Presidents Nixon and Ford for his failures. It is about time that the spotlight be focused directly on President Carter and his disastrous agriculture policies for a change."

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