

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE FARM BILL CLEARS LAST MAJOR HURDLE

WASHINGTON -- The House voted last night to consider the basic provisions of a major farm bill proposed by Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) under the suspension calendar on Monday. This vote virtually assures passage of Dole's legislation, designed to offset the adverse effect of the Soviet grain embargo. It passed on a voice vote.

Senator Dole said, "I am pleased with the action the House took today. I have been working for several months to obtain passage of this legislation. I lead the effort for the farm bill in the Senate, and actively sought support in the House."

The legislation would: Raise loan rates on wheat, corn, and soybeans; waive interest charges on the 1981 crops of wheat and feed grains under the farmer-held reserve; and set up a humanitarian food reserve.

It had been feared that failure by the House to deal with this matter before adjournment in October would greatly diminish its chances for passage. The House's leadership had claimed the lame-duck session would deal primarily with appropriations and budgetary matters.

NEW LIFE

"Placing H.R. 3 on the suspension calendar, allowed it be voted on, breathing life back into the bill," said Dole. This is not the first time Dole's farm bill has been brought back to life. When it appeared that the bill he had originally introduced to offset the effect of the grain embargo would not pass the Senate, Senator Dole, with the aid of Senator George McGovern, attached the farm provisions to the Child Nutrition Bill which was still in the Agriculture Committee.

The Senate accepted, by unanimous consent, Senator Dole's addition of his farm bill to the Child Nutrition Act, and Dole served as the only Republican Senator in the conference with the House. In the conference committee, he and Congressman Keith Sebelius were successful in getting the provision waiving first-year interest charges adopted. The Secretary now waives the interest on the second and third years of the reserve loans. A waiver on the first year will save farmers 38¢ a bushel in interest charges.

When the Child Nutrition conference could not reach agreement on a section of the bill dealing with nutrition, it appeared that the farm provisions were again in danger. Senator Dole then worked out an agreement with Senators Herman Talmadge and Henry Bellmon and Congressman Tom Foley to attach the farm legislation to the Walnut Marketing Bill. This bill passed the Senate, but was stalled in the House until yesterday's action.

(MORE)

LOAN RATES

The farm bill sets basic loan rates for 1981 at not less than \$3 for wheat and \$2.25 for corn. It increases loan rates for 1980 and 1981 crop grain entering the farmer-held reserve to not less than \$3.30 for wheat and \$2.40 for corn and waives interest on these loans. The 1981 soybean support payment is set at \$5.02 by the legislation.

The legislation establishes a four-million-ton emergency grain reserve from stocks already on hand. "The reserve would hold the grain off the market that the government has purchased to offset the grain embargo," said Senator Dole. Dole commented that the reserve would be used in developing countries in the event of famine.