

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MONDAY, DEC. 22, 1980

CONTACT: BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8953

SELECTION OF JOHN BLOCK AS AG SEC. 'A GREAT VICTORY FOR THE FARMER'

WASHINGTON-- The selection of Illinois Agriculture Director John Block by President-elect Ronald Reagan to be Secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture "is a great victory for the American farmer," according to U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas).

Dole, who personally recommended Block to the President-elect at a Washington meeting on December 11, added, "I am convinced John Block will do a superior job as Secretary of Agriculture. He is energetic, resourceful and brings the knowledge of a working farmer to the job. John Block is not tied to any one special interest group and thus I believe he'll prove to be a real champion of the family farmer, who is still the backbone of American Agriculture."

Immediate Signal

Dole, who is a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee and will be Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, said, "The appointment of Mr. Block sends an important, immediate signal to the American farmer. His appointment means that President-elect Reagan is moving to restore profitability to farming."

Mr. Block, 45, owns and operates the family farm near Galesburg, Illinois. He raises hogs and soybeans. Mr. Block is also a 1957 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy.