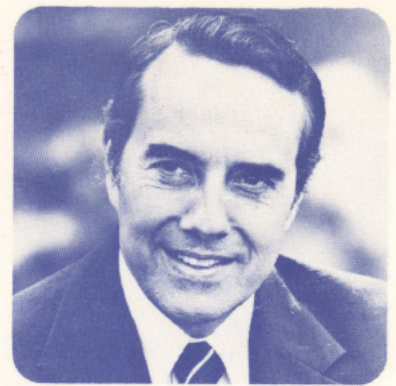


News from Senator BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 1981

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-6521

DOLE ENCOURAGED BY JAPANESE TRADE ACTIONS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) today expressed encouragement over recent attempts by the Japanese government to correct the gross trade imbalance currently plaguing trade between the United States and Japan. But Dole believes there is still a long way to go before fair play is restored to Japanese-U.S. trade relations.

As Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, Senator Dole has played a prominent role in addressing trade imbalances with Japan.

"We have repeatedly warned the Administration and Japanese officials that continued lack of reciprocity in the marketplace threatens not only our bilateral trade relationship, but the entire world trade system as well. I understand the importance of a liberal international trade policy, but in return for a continued commitment to that policy, everybody must play by the rules," said Dole.

Following a January 18 meeting in Washington with Shintaro Abe, the Japanese Minister of Industry and Trade, Senator Dole was convinced the deep concerns over trade problems with Japan were finally reaching Japanese officials.

At that meeting, Dole reiterated the concerns of the Finance Committee-- concerns that prompted the committee's resolution on December 2, 1981, calling for the Administration to forcefully address the Japanese denial of equivalent market access for U.S. goods. After the session with Senator Dole, Abe said he understood the frustrations of U.S. exporters and promised his government would take steps to remove unnecessary market barriers.

Dole said he was pleased with the resulting January 30 announcement by Japanese trade officials that 67 of 99 specific trade complaints could be resolved immediately. The Senator looks forward to affirmative action on another nine that remain under study.

"These are concrete steps that demonstrate when willing to do so, the government of Japan can apply to import problems the same sense of purpose that characterizes their export successes," Dole said.

"However," Dole continued, "simply curing any number of specific problems does not really address the more fundamental problems of market access. I am glad the United States can now export metal baseball bats to Japan without harassment. But this problem should never have been an issue in the first place. Now that the Japanese are simplifying custom procedures, accepting more foreign test data, and beginning to explain domestically that 'imports are okay', I am encouraged Japan is finally starting to unravel their traditional web of tariff, nontariff and societal barriers. When the tough issues are faced--agricultural quotas, for example--I will know they are really serious."

Dole concluded, "The steps announced by the Japanese on January 30 are on the right trail, but it's a very long trail."