

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE CALLS FOR PROMPT ACTION NEXT YEAR ON PAYMENT-IN-KIND

LEGISLATION; SENDS LETTER TO SECRETARY BLOCK

WASHINGTON -- Despite a last minute "PIK" setback in the waning hours of the 97th Congress, Senator Dole (R-Kan.) today promised to push early next year for institution of the "Payment-in-Kind program" to reduce 1983 crops and bring down burdensome stocks of wheat and other farm commodities.

In a letter to Agriculture Secretary John Block, Dole confirmed that the effort to restore balance to supply and demand of U.S. farm products would be at the top of the Senate agenda next year.

Under the PIK program the government would offer farmers an amount of commodity (expressed as a percentage of their base program yield per acre) for reducing their acreage.

The following is the full text of the Senator's letter:

Dear Mr. Secretary:

It is unfortunate that the opposition of one Member of the Senate has prevented Congress from providing you with the additional authority needed to operate the Administration's Payment-in-Kind (PIK) program for 1983 crops. An effective production control program, combined with an aggressive effort to maintain and expand agricultural exports, is essential to the objective of reducing grain stocks and raising farm income.

Considering the pressing need to further control production of wheat, feed grains, cotton and rice in 1983, I urge you to proceed to announce the details and compliance requirements of the PIK program in early January, anticipating Congressional action as soon as possible in the new year. I will work closely with the Department to ensure that the authorities are in place to administer an effective production control and export incentive program for farm commodities in 1983.

Sincerely yours,

BOB DOLE
United States Senate

"Given the current farm situation of burdensome surpluses for many commodities and weak demand dictates the need for bolder and more innovative farm programs," Dole said, "I believe the Payments-in-Kind (PIK) program is a program that is sorely needed to reduce excessive stocks and lay the groundwork for price and income strength in the future."