

BOB DOLE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SATURDAY, MARCH 10, 1984

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DOLE: "KEEP PRESSURE ON" FOR PASSAGE OF NEW 1984 WHEAT PROGRAM
SIGN-UP EXTENSION EXPECTED

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today urged farmers and farm state representatives to "keep the pressure on" for quick approval of a major wheat and feedgrain program improvement package that gained Senate Agriculture Committee endorsement late Thursday afternoon.

Dole, one of the driving forces behind the 1984 wheat program reform package, predicted that the legislation would come to the Senate floor for consideration early next week.

"Farmers and their representatives on Capitol Hill need to keep the pressure on until we get the job done," Dole said. "We should not allow a small group of Senators, or one lone member, to block the decision of an overwhelming majority of members of both Houses to improve domestic and export programs for wheat, corn and other crops during the next two years. I am optimistic we will get the job done but we need help."

Dole's upbeat outlook and words of caution came amid general enthusiasm from the wheat belt to the terms of the revised 1984 and 1985 crop programs. Similar improvements were advanced by Dole many times during the past several months, but each time the improvement package was stonewalled by a few Senators.

"If we can move this legislation in the Senate this week, Secretary Block has indicated he will again extend the 1984 sign-up deadline to provide enough time for the House of Representatives to act," Dole stated. "Because the basic terms on the target price level and paid diversion program are also included in the legislation sponsored by Congressman Tom Foley (D-Wash.) which passed the House last November, I would expect little argument from his supporters and cosponsors in that body."

The Kansas Republican also emphasized that the legislation includes about \$2 billion for export assistance. "Boosting exports, reducing our stocks and making the U.S. an aggressive salesman overseas are top priorities. This package should help improve our exports while at the same time encourage greater participation in the programs," Dole said.

REVISED FARM PROGRAM COMPROMISE

Wheat

1984 crop: \$4.38 target price; 10 percent paid diversion with 50 percent advance payment at time of sign-up; 20 percent Acreage Reduction Program; 10-20 percent PIK with 85 percent payment rate; hay and grazing at state option.

1985 crop: Same as above, with PIK program at the discretion of the Secretary.