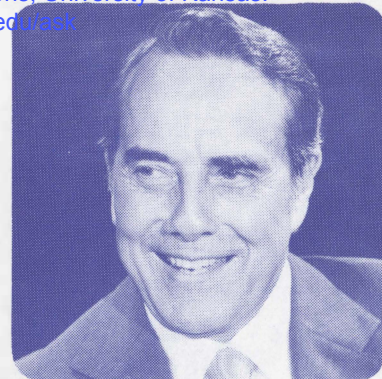


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE TESTIFIES ON AGRICULTURAL EXPORT COMMISSION

WASHINGTON -- Following is the statement of Kansas Senator Bob Dole before the Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs on S.J.Res. 319: The Agricultural Trade and Export Policy Commission Act of 1984:

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, MR. CHAIRMAN. I WANT TO FIRST COMMEND THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS, SENATOR ROTH, FOR HIS WILLINGNESS TO EXPEDITE THIS LEGISLATION IN A PROMPT MANNER. THE COMMISSION ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS RESOLUTION WILL BE UNDER SOME TIGHT TIME CONSTRAINTS -- INCLUDING AN INITIAL REPORT IN TIME FOR HEARINGS ON THE 1985 FARM BILL NEXT MARCH. I APPRECIATE THIS COMMITTEE'S RECOGNITION OF THESE FACTORS, AND HOPE WE CAN MOVE THROUGH THIS HEARING TODAY SO THAT THE BILL CAN BE REPORTED AND PASSED BEFORE THE RECESS NEXT WEEK.

SECONDLY, I WOULD LIKE TO COMMEND THE SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS AND THE DISTINGUISHED CHAIRMAN OF THE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SENATOR PERCY, FOR TAKING THE LEADERSHIP IN ORGANIZING THIS HEARING. THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY SOME QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE ANSWERED TODAY, AND I KNOW THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE HAS MADE SEVERAL CHANGES IN THE COMPANION RESOLUTION, H.J.RES. 600, THAT WE MAY WANT TO LOOK AT. ALSO, I WOULD NOTE THAT THE RESOLUTION WOULD NAME AS EX OFFICIO MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

- 2 -

THE CHAIRMAN AND RANKING MEMBERS OF THE FINANCE AND FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES AS WELL AS THE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE. SO IT IS VERY APPROPRIATE THAT THE SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS HAS MADE HIMSELF AVAILABLE TO CHAIR THIS MEETING AND I WELCOME HIM AS A COSPONSOR OF S.J.RES. 319.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I WANT TO KEEP MY COMMENTS BRIEF IN RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT YOU HAVE A NUMBER OF WITNESSES TO HEAR FROM THIS MORNING AND WE NEED TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO MOVE THIS LEGISLATION FORWARD AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE. THE RATIONALE FOR CREATING A NATIONAL COMMISSION TO REVIEW U.S. AGRICULTURAL TRADE AND EXPORT PROGRAMS AND POLICIES HAS BEEN THOROUGHLY DISCUSSED IN MEETINGS OVER THE PAST TWO MONTHS AND IN STATEMENTS WHICH SENATORS HUDDLESTON, HELMS, DIXON AND I MADE IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD AT THE TIME I INTRODUCED S.J.RES. 319 ON JUNE 21.

PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCING

I WOULD ONLY REEMPHASIZE THAT, IN ADDITION TO FILLING A MUCH-NEEDED PURPOSE, THE COMMISSION IS IMPORTANT BECAUSE IT WOULD BE FINANCED BY PRIVATE SECTOR CONTRIBUTIONS. DURING A SERIES OF MEETINGS ON THE STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PROPOSED COMMISSION IN JUNE, VARIOUS FARM GROUPS AND AGRICULTURE-RELATED ORGANIZATIONS ENDORSED THIS NON-GOVERNMENT FUNDING CONCEPT AS A POSITIVE STEP IN BUILDING CREDIBILITY IN ITS EVENTUAL RECOMMENDATIONS. THEY ALSO REFLECT A RECOGNITION AMONG AN

- 3 -

INCREASING NUMBER OF FARM INTERESTS THAT THOSE OF US WHO BELIEVE IN AND DEPEND ON AGRICULTURE NEED TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION IF WE ARE TO BUILD A MORE PROSPEROUS FUTURE.

QUESTIONS ON FUNDING

I UNDERSTAND THAT THE AMENDMENT APPROVED BY THE HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY WOULD MAKE THREE CHANGES IN THE RESOLUTION'S PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCING PROVISIONS. IT WOULD LIMIT THE SIZE OF ANY INDIVIDUAL OR CORPORATE CONTRIBUTION TO 5% OF THE TOTAL FUND; IT WOULD REQUIRE APPOINTMENT OF THE COMMISSION MEMBERS BEFORE ANY FUNDS ARE ACCEPTED; AND IT WOULD PROVIDE AUTHORITY TO THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE TO CONTRIBUTE UP TO \$1.0 MILLION IN CCC FUNDS IF THE PRIVATE SECTOR FINANCING IS NOT SUFFICIENT FOR THE COMMISSION'S OPERATIONS. I DON'T HAVE ANY PARTICULAR PROBLEM WITH EITHER OF THE FIRST TWO POINTS, WHICH SERVE TO REDUCE ANY POSSIBILITY OF ONE FIRM OR INDIVIDUAL "BUYING" A SEAT ON THE COMMISSION. WITH REGARD TO AUTHORIZED CCC CONTRIBUTIONS, I WOULD HOPE THE USDA WILL MAKE CLEAR TO THE PRIVATE SECTOR THAT IT DOES NOT INTEND TO MAKE ANY DIRECT FUNDING FOR THE COMMISSION. THE SOONER THE FINANCING RESPONSIBILITY IS BACK CLEARLY ON THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S SHOULDERS, THE BETTER. SO WHILE WE CAN DISCUSS THE HOUSE AMENDMENT MORE TODAY AND LATER ON THE SENATE FLOOR, I DO NOT SEE IT POSING AN INSURMOUNTABLE OBSTACLE TO PASSAGE OF S.J. RES. 319.

CONCLUSION

FINALLY, LET ME SAY THAT THE VALUE AND UTILITY OF ANY COMMISSION'S FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ARE RARELY GREATER THAN THE POLITICAL PRESSURES ON POLICYMAKERS AT THE TIME THEY ARE MADE. HOPEFULLY, THE FINANCIAL AS WELL AS ECONOMIC INTEREST OF ALL OF THE AGRICULTURE-RELATED INDUSTRIES SUPPORTING THIS INITIATIVE WILL HELP TO KEEP THE PRESSURE ON. AND HOPEFULLY, THE COMMISSION WILL BE ABLE TO FIND ITS WAY THROUGH THE EXISTING COMPLEXITY OF U.S. FARM TRADE AND EXPORT PROGRAMS AND POLICIES TO PROPOSE SOME MEANINGFUL AND LONG-RANGE SUGGESTIONS TO GUIDE OUR FUTURE DIRECTION.

THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN.