

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE SALUTES HEROIC RESCUE AND RELIEF EFFORTS IN WAKE OF KILLER KANSAS TORNADOES.

WASHINGTON -- KANSAS SENATOR BOB DOLE TODAY ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT REGARDING THE EFFORTS OF ALL WHO GAVE THEIR ASSISTANCE DURING THE RECENT TORNADO DESTRUCTION IN KANSAS:

MR. PRESIDENT, WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH IN KANSAS, THE TOUGH LEND A HAND. THERE WAS NO BETTER EXAMPLE OF THIS KANSAS CREDO THAN LAST WEEK, WHEN A KILLER TORNADO RIPPED A WIDE PATH THROUGH MY HOME STATE.

IN THE AFTERMATH, NEIGHBORS, FRIENDS, AND STRANGERS FACED THE EMERGENCY TOGETHER, WORKING SHOULDER TO SHOULDER TO SURVIVE, TO PERSEVERE AND TO REBUILD WHAT MOTHER NATURE DESTROYED.

MOST AMERICANS HAVE NEVER SEEN A TORNADO AND ARE JUSTIFIABLY THANKFUL FOR THE FACT. IN KANSAS, HOWEVER, TORNADOS ARE A FACT OF LIFE - A TERRIFYING, DESTRUCTIVE AND ALL-TOO-OFTEN DEADLY OCCURENCE.

LAST TUESDAY EVENING, AS MANY AS 20 TORNADOS STRUCK CENTRAL AND NORTHEAST KANSAS. THE LARGEST AND MOST POWERFUL OF THESE HIT THE TOWN OF HESSTON AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES. THIS DEADLY TWISTER RAMPAGED THROUGH THREE COUNTIES, CUTTING A HALF-MILE WIDE SWATH; A 120-MILE CONTINUOUS PATH OF DESTRUCTION THROUGH FIELDS, FARMS AND TOWNS,

TWO PERSONS LOST THEIR LIVES, AND MANY WERE INJURED. WE MOURN THESE DEATHS AND SEND OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES.

MEANWHILE, IN HESSTON, THE DAMAGE IS ESTIMATED AT AT LEAST \$21 MILLION. THAT'S QUITE A BIT FOR A CITY WITH A POPULATION OF 3,400; MORE THAN 100 HOMES SUSTAINED SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE, MANY OF THEM DESTROYED.

IN FACT, TEN COUNTIES WERE DECLARED AS A STATE OF DISASTER EMERGENCY BY GOVERNOR MIKE HAYDEN: JEWELL, MORRIS, SHAWNEE, JEFFERSON, RENO, HARVEY, MARION, MCPHERSON, SALINE, AND GEARY COUNTIES. SUMNER COUNTY ALSO SUFFERED SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE.

MR. PRESIDENT, I'D LIKE TO TAKE A MOMENT TO MENTION THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO, WITHOUT HESITATION, CAME TO THE AID OF THEIR NEIGHBORS.

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**FIRST, THE CITY AND COUNTY OFFICIALS OF HESSTON AND HARVEY COUNTY.** THEIR HIGH LEVEL OF PREPAREDNESS HELPED PREVENT LOSS OF LIFE IN THE CITY ITSELF, AND MINIMIZED THE NUMBER OF INJURIES. THE ALARM WAS SOUNDED THREE TIMES BEFORE THE TORNADO STRUCK AT 5:35 PM. BEFORE 9:00 THAT NIGHT, WELL-ORGANIZED VOLUNTEER RESCUE TEAMS SEARCHED EVERY HOME. COUNTY EMERGENCY DIRECTOR LON BULLER, MAYOR JOHN WALTNER AND CITY MANAGER JAY WEILAND WERE OUTSTANDING HANDLING BOTH RESCUE AND CLEAN-UP EFFORTS.

**THE MENNONITE COMMUNITY IN KANSAS.** THE MENNONITE DISASTER SERVICE WAS ORIGINALLY ESTABLISHED IN HESSTON, AND NOW HAS A NETWORK IN 48 STATES AND THREE COUNTRIES. THIS TIME, THESE GOOD PEOPLE WERE NEEDED CLOSE TO HOME, AND THEY RESPONDED WITH A WILL: THE DAY AFTER THE STORM, MORE THAN 1,000 MENNONITE VOLUNTEERS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY BEGAN REPORTING FOR CLEAN UP DUTY AND RELIEF ASSISTANCE; A REMARKABLE VOLUNTEER EFFORT, MR. PRESIDENT.

**HAM RADIO OPERATORS IN THE AREA.** THE COUNTY EMERGENCY CENTER WAS QUICKLY OVERLOADED BY CALLS AND INQUIRIES; MEANWHILE, TELEPHONE LINES HAD BEEN ALL BUT BLOWN AWAY BY THE TWISTERS. BUT HELP WAS ON THE WAY -- THE 4 HAM OPERATORS IN THE COUNTY WORKED AROUND THE CLOCK HANDLING COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, COORDINATING SEARCH AND RESCUE, UNTIL SERVICE WAS RESTORED THREE DAYS LATER.

**THE RED CROSS AND THE SALVATION ARMY.** THESE DEDICATED MEN AND WOMEN WERE IN HESSTON IN FULL FORCE, DOING AN OUTSTANDING JOB. THEY WERE ALWAYS THERE WHEN NEEDED. THEIR EXPERIENCE, LEADERSHIP AND COOLNESS UNDER FIRE WERE WELCOME RELIEF TO THE BELEAGUERED CITIZENS OF HESSTON AND THEIR NEIGHBORS.

**THE NATIONAL GUARD,** CALLED OUT BY GOVERNOR MIKE HAYDEN IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE CRISIS, PLAYED A KEY ROLE BY WORKING AROUND THE CLOCK TO MAINTAIN ORDER. THEY PATROLLED THE TOWN, PROTECTING CITIZENS BY PREVENTING LOOTERS, ESTABLISHING A CURFEW AND ASSISTING TIRELESSLY IN CLEANUP EFFORTS.

**GOVERNOR MIKE HAYDEN,** WHO VISITED THE DISASTER SITE THE EVENING OF THE TORNADO, ACTED QUICKLY BY DECLARING A STATE OF DISASTER EMERGENCY IN THE AFFECTED COUNTIES. HE ORDERED THE ACTIVATION OF THE DISASTER RESPONSE AND RECOVERY PROGRAMS IN THE STATE DISASTER EMERGENCY PLAN.

MR. PRESIDENT, I HOPE THAT MY COLLEAGUES WILL JOIN ME IN PAYING SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO THESE VOLUNTEERS. THEY RESPONDED TO NEIGHBORS IN NEED. AS A KANSAN, I'M PROUD AND GRATEFUL OF THE EFFORTS OF THE OFFICIALS, CHURCH VOLUNTEERS, AND FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS IN HESSTON, KANSAS.

LET ME CLOSE BY RECITING ONE STORY THAT SPEAKS VOLUMES ABOUT THE KIND OF PEOPLE WE HAVE IN KANSAS: IN THE WAKE OF THE TORNADO, THE RED CROSS QUICKLY SET-UP A STAND-BY SHELTER FOR PERSONS MADE HOMELESS BY THE TWISTER. IT WAS AN EXCELLENT FACILITY, AND TOOK IN THIRTY PEOPLE THE FIRST NIGHT.

BUT GUESS WHAT? BY DAY 2, ALMOST ALL WERE GONE. WHY? BECAUSE THEIR NEIGHBORS HAD TAKEN THEM IN.

MR. PRESIDENT, THAT'S WHAT KANSAS IS ALL ABOUT.

AGRICULTURE IN 1990: ON THE RISE

1990 MARKS A NEW DECADE IN AMERICAN AGRICULTURE; AND IT WILL START WITH A NEW 5-YEAR FARM BILL. THE PAST DECADE HAS BEEN A ROLLER COASTER OF HIGHS AND LOWS FOR OUR FARMERS. WE CAN LEARN A LOT FROM THE PAST TEN YEARS AS WE MOVE ON TO THE 21ST CENTURY.

THE EARLY 1980'S WAS A TOUGH TIME FOR MANY PRODUCERS. SADDLED WITH DEBT AND RACKED WITH HIGH INTEREST RATES, THEY STRUGGLED TO MAINTAIN THEIR OPERATIONS. UNFORTUNATELY, A STRONG DOLLAR AND AN EVER-WIDENING AG TRADE DEFICIT BROUGHT LITTLE HOPE TO THOSE FARMERS WHO HOPED TO SEE SALVATION IN A VIGOROUS OVERSEAS MARKETPLACE. WHAT THE AMERICAN FARMER REALLY NEEDED WAS A FARM POLICY THAT PROVIDED INCOME PROTECTION ALONG WITH A GET-TOUGH POLICY IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.

WE ACCOMPLISHED THOSE GOALS WITH THE 1985 FOOD SECURITY ACT. DURING THE LIFE OF THE 1985 BILL, NET FARM INCOME HAS RISEN 48% FROM \$32.4 BILLION TO \$48 BILLION. EXPORT MARKETS, WITH THE AID OF SUCH TRADE WEAPONS AS THE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM, HAVE PRIED OPENED SOME CLOSED MARKETPLACES, INCREASING BOTH THE VOLUME AND VALUE OF FARM EXPORTS. SINCE THE ENACTMENT OF 'EEP' IN 1985, WE HAVE INVESTED \$2.7 BILLION IN 'EEP' AND AS A RESULT SOLD NEARLY \$10 BILLION WORTH OF AMERICAN FARM PRODUCTS -- NOW THAT'S A GOOD RETURN ON OUR INVESTMENT.

EXPORT VOLUME HAS ENJOYED A ROBUST 76% INCREASE IN CORN EXPORTS AND A 40% INCREASE FOR WHEAT. THE GOOD NEWS IS, THE 1985 FARM BILL HAS PROVEN ITSELF TO BE BUDGET SENSITIVE: AS DESIGNED, GOVERNMENT PAYMENTS HAVE FALLEN FROM A HIGH OF \$25.8 BILLION TO \$10.5 BILLION IN 1989.

WHILE THE 1985 BILL MAY NOT BE A PERFECT PIECE OF LEGISLATION, IT DOES GIVE US A SOLID AND PROGRESSIVE BASE TO BUILD ON. THE 1985 ACT HAS BROUGHT DESPERATELY-NEEDED INCOME SECURITY AND GROWTH INTO A STRUGGLING AGRICULTURE ECONOMY, AND I'M SURE MANY FARMERS WOULD CALL IT A LIFE-SAVER.

DEDICATION FOR THE FUTURE

NEW CHALLENGES FACE THE AMERICAN FARMER THIS YEAR, CHALLENGES WHICH WE ARE MEETING HEAD ON. THE FARM COMMUNITY IS SERIOUS ABOUT ADDRESSING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS IN THE NEW FARM BILL, AND I LOOK FORWARD TO WORKING WITH OTHER GROUPS WHO SHARE THAT SAME DEDICATION. WE ARE REVIEWING PROPOSALS TO OFFER THE FARMER INCREASED PLANTING FLEXIBILITY, AND TO ALLOW HIM GREATER DISCRETION IN MAKING PLANTING DECISIONS BASED ON THE MARKET CONDITIONS AND PRUDENT AGRONOMIC AND ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS. THE SUPPORT FOR THESE POLICIES FROM FARM COUNTRY REFLECTS THE IMPORTANCE THE AMERICAN FARMER PLACES ON THE CONTINUED PRESERVATION OF OUR COUNTRY'S MOST VALUABLE RESOURCES.

AS WE REFLECT ON THE ENORMOUS ACHIEVEMENTS AND TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES MADE BY THE AMERICAN FARMER, LET US REMEMBER HIS DEDICATION AND LOVE FOR THE LAND. NO DOUBT ABOUT IT, THE AMERICAN FARMER HAS BEEN A PIONEER IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP FOR AMERICA'S UNRIVALED RESOURCES.

WE CAN ALL TAKE PRIDE THAT OUR FARMERS AND RANCHERS ARE THE MOST PRODUCTIVE IN THE WORLD. I KNOW MY COLLEAGUES -- BOTH URBAN AND RURAL -- JOIN ME TODAY IN SALUTING AMERICAN AGRICULTURE.