



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE RAPS JACKSON MOVE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--"Farmers are being sacrificed on the altar of Presidential ambition," Senator Bob Dole charged today. Dole referred to Senator Henry Jackson's request that all pending or contemplated grain sales to the Soviet Union be reported to -- and that apparently means cleared by -- his permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Dole pointed out that Jackson would only repeat a mistake the Administration made last year, and was widely criticized for because it prompted many foreign buyers to pass up purchases of American grain. "Uncertainty created by the prior approval system cut down on foreign purchases of American grain last year and earlier this year," Dole said. "Now it appears we have a Member of the Senate trying to establish his own 'prior approval' system. The result of Jackson's proposal would be a repetition of the restrictions and confusion which led to the loss of grain sales."

"If my colleague is concerned about protecting the consumer, he should be apprised that adequate protection of the domestic supply of grain is already in the law," the ranking Republican of the Agriculture Committee said. "The Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 requires reporting within 24 hours of grain transactions exceeding 100,000 tons. That's identical to Senator Jackson's request -- so apparently he wants to replace the Department of Agriculture. The law now in effect was designed to avoid a situation in which any large sale might take American consumers, farmers or the people in general by surprise and adversely affect the U.S. domestic supply or raise consumer prices to unrealistic levels."

Repeating his concern about higher food prices, Dole also stressed the need for allowing farmers to obtain a fair price for their products. "Grain exporting is an extremely competitive business. Revealing the size of potential purchases during the process of very delicate negotiations could very well send our customers to other sources, and that is what farmers and I and other Senators object to."