



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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## MEASURE FOOD POLICIES FIRST BY THEIR IMPACT ON NUTRITION, DOLE URGES

PHILADELPHIA--Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) declared today that the United States is headed toward a desirable principle of measuring food policies and programs "first and foremost by the degree to which they contribute to sound nutritional health."

If the American people have adequate information about the nutritional value of the foods that are for sale, Dole said they will make wise decisions--and producers and processors will act accordingly--without governmental dictation.

He told the annual meeting of the Institute of Food Technologists that he would oppose the administration-backed proposal for the creation of a new Agency for Consumer Protection.

### Idea Whose Time Has Come, Gone

"It is an idea whose time has come and gone," the Senator asserted. In the last Congress Dole supported similar legislation, which failed to pass by enough votes to override a threatened presidential veto.

Dole noted in today's remarks that:

"Many of the leading spokesmen for the consumer organizations have been brought into the government in the meantime. The government and its agencies are responsive now to the interests of consumers. Most agencies have an office of consumer affairs headed by a consumer activist. Some agencies exist solely for the protection of consumer interests. Congressional staffs spend more time now helping to provide consumer activists access to federal agencies."

"The interests of consumers are sufficiently represented now that another federal bureaucracy is not needed. A year ago the President was campaigning against the evils of a government grown too big and too diffuse. The other day he attacked what he called 'the lobbyists from selfish, self-interest groups' who he said have 'come out of the woodwork' to bring pressure on Congress against the Consumer Protection Agency bill. It is illogical for the President to be calling for the creation of yet another federal agency at the very time he is stressing the need for reorganization of the executive branch into a more efficient framework that would reduce and not increase the number of agencies."

"If the American people are given adequate information about the products they buy and the food they eat," Dole continued, "they are intelligent enough to act sensibly without the intrusion of more bureaucrats operating as 'advocates'."

### Vending Machine Food in School

He recommended that it be made easier for existing public officials to carry out their responsibilities, without adding more layers of bureaucratic regulation. Dole sponsored an amendment to the child nutrition bill that restore the Secretary of Agriculture's authority over vending machine food in the schools. He said the measure is intended to give trained food service personnel some control over all the foods that are available to students in the schools, not just what is available in the lunch rooms.

He pointed to the huge increase in federal expenditures for food assistance and nutrition education. For example, the federal budget calls for an increase in the appropriation for nutrition education and training in the school lunch program to be boosted from \$700,000 this year to \$25 million next year. The appropriation for food stamps is over \$5.5 billion this year--eight times more than in 1970 when the program started.