



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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SUGAR PRICE SUPPORT PROGRAM TO BE IMPLEMENTED IN RESPONSE TO DOLE ANNOUNCEMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- In response to Senator Bob Dole's announcement yesterday that he would require consideration of Senate Resolution 38 to overturn President Carter's rejection of sugar import fees and quotas, the Department of Agriculture today told Dole they would immediately implement the sugar provision of the farm bill.

Dole had repeatedly urged President Carter and Secretary Bergland to "implement the Congressional sugar price support program without delay as the Agriculture Act of 1977 requires." On October 1, Dole initiated a letter signed by seven of the eight Senate Conferees to the House-Senate farm bill conference advising President Carter that the Administration "does not, in our judgement, have the legal authority to delay implementation of the sugar price support system..."

The Kansas Senator said today that he is "pleased the Secretary has seen fit to expedite the implementation of the sugar provision of the farm bill. I sincerely believe is the best means to provide improved incomes for sugar beet and sugar cane producers."

After receiving U.S.D.A assurances in a letter hand delivered this afternoon from Deputy Secretary John White, Dole withdrew his motion to call up S.Res. 38.

Following is the text of the letter Dole received from White:

You and many other members of the Senate have expressed your strong interest in the earliest possible implementation of the sugar price support provisions of the farm bill.

The Department's expedited schedule for implementation of the loan and purchase program required by the de la Garza amendment to the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977 envisioned publication of final regulations by December 7.

However, it is now our intention to waive certain procedural constraints generally required for less urgent matters. We believe we can advance our timetable even further. It is our intention to implement the aforementioned loan and purchase program not later than November 8, 1977.

For example, we will eliminate a period we had intended to use to hold public hearings on minimum wage rates and use other, faster methods to seek advice on setting minimum wages for sugar workers.

The President and Secretary Bergland are committed to a strong effort to bring about workable price relief for our sugar producers. To this end, I am pleased to state my personal commitment and that of the Secretary to implementation of this program at the earliest possible date.

John C. White
Deputy Secretary