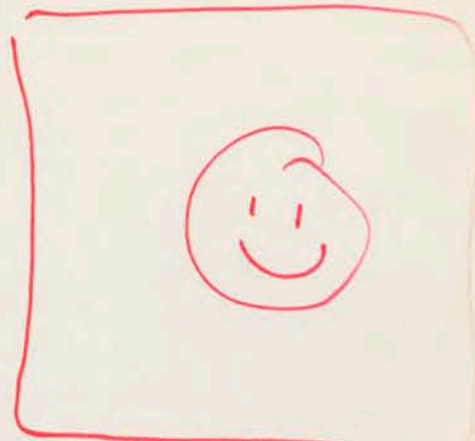


Washington Newsletter

From Senator Bob Dole



4213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20540

December, 1977

A Look at the First Session, 95th Congress

The first Session of the 95th Congress can, in kindest terms, be described as a year of modest legislative accomplishment. An abundance of new legislative initiatives was proposed by the new Administration and Congress began to work on several important government policies, including energy conservation and production, legislation to help the American farmer, proposals to slow the growth in health care expenditures, reform of the Social Security System, and the new Panama Canal Treaties. As a member of the Senate Agriculture, Budget, Finance and Nutrition Committees, I have been actively involved in Congressional deliberations on these and other important issues which will, directly or indirectly, affect the lives and well-being of every Kansan.

FARM LEGISLATION

The Senate Agriculture Committee spent months on a new Farm bill, the food and Agriculture Act of 1977. I worked with other farm state representatives in an effort to pass farm commodity programs which reasonably reflect the cost of production for wheat, corn and other farm products.

My amendment to increase deficiency payments for 1977 crop wheat, which passed the Senate by only 4 votes, means nearly an additional \$100 million to Kansas wheat farmers. The closeness of this vote is a strong indication of the difficulty farmers and their elected representatives in Congress have in passing farm legislation in an urban-dominated Congress.

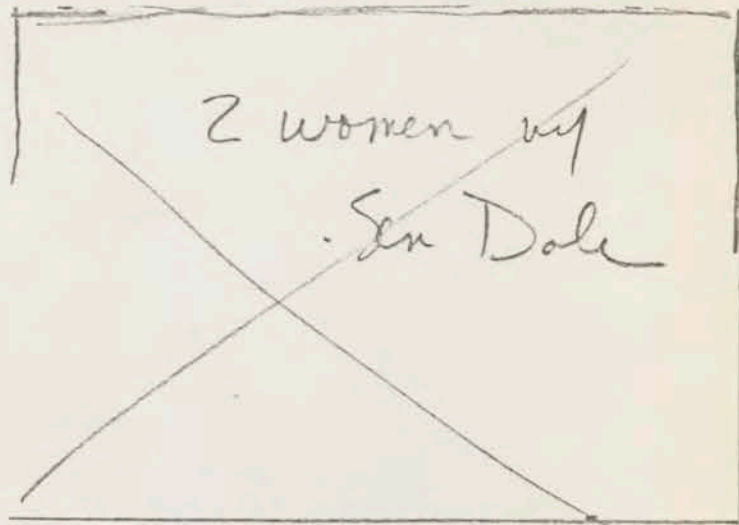
Clearly, we have ^{not} done enough for farmers. Even with the income support received as a result of the 1977 Farm bill, many farmers are still caught in an unbearable cost-price squeeze. That's why the Senate Agriculture Committee will conduct hearings in the Midwest in January.

Other Agricultural legislative initiatives I offered in 1977:

SUGAR - An amendment to establish a supported market for sugar beet and cane producers and ^a resolution, which would have required the President to impose sugar import quotas, forced the Administration to finally implement the new sugar program.

GRAIN INSPECTION - A bill to provide that the costs of field supervision of inspection or weighing of grain shall be financed by the government, not Kansas farmers.

LOANS AND RESERVES - Proposals for establishment of an extended loan or reserve program for grain, including a program whereby farmers can benefit from any recovery in



ATTEND CONFERENCE -- Nancy Belohlazek, Topeka, and Diana Coberly, Gove, travelled to Washington recently as Kansas delegates to the White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals.

prices while their grain is subject to an extended loan.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONSERVATION - A bill to update and redirect the agricultural conservation program, including a provision to extend for three years the rural community fire protection program and the provision which raises the loan limitation on the upstream watershed protection program.

WHEAT RESEARCH - A proposal for a program of research and nutrition education among producers, processors, end product manufacturers and consumers of wheat products.

FARM EXPORTS - In addition to several key features of the domestic farm program, my amendments to the Food for Peace Program will encourage more exports of commodities, link food assistance to economic development in recipient nations and restore the integrity of the program which has been abused in the past by some Korean rice and shipping interests. Senator Humphrey and I are working to secure passage of our bill to extend Commodity Credit Corporation credit to China, Russia, and other non-market countries with appropriate limitations in an effort to increase overseas sales of our huge grain surplus.

HEALTH LEGISLATION

Legislation affecting the type and quality of health care received by all Americans occupied much time during 1977. As ranking minority member of the Senate Finance Health Sub-Committee, I have introduced legislation and listened to scores of witnesses on controlling escalating health care costs,

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expanding rural health care, and limiting Medicare and Medicaid fraud and abuse.

MEDICARE/MEDICAID FRAUD - Legislation Senator Talmadge and I introduced to identify and reduce abuse and fraud in the Medicare and Medicaid Program has been passed, thus insuring that taxpayers dollars are being spent to provide quality health care for our elderly and impoverished citizens.

RURAL CLINICS - We worked on legislation to provide Medicare coverage for services furnished to elderly residents of rural, medically under-served areas cleared by Congress this year. This important bill, which will be of particular benefit to doctor-short states such as Kansas, will increase the amount of federal payments for health care services provided by non-physicians.

COST CONTAINMENT - Senator Talmadge and I introduced legislation to control the rapidly escalating costs of health care for all Americans. This legislation is designed to reward hospitals which are operated in an efficient manner, we are hopeful that a satisfactory bill will be passed early next year.

HEALTH PLANNING - Health planning Legislation is of critical importance to rural residents, and in letters I have received from Kansans, you have clearly stated that you want local, not federal health planning. I agree and have indicated your desires in correspondence with the Department of Health Education and Welfare.

ENERGY LEGISLATION

A great deal of time during 1977 was involved in deliberations on a new national energy policy. Unfortunately, as I write this newsletter, no really satisfactory energy plan has been agreed upon. The President favors substantial tax increases to discourage energy use while I (and the majority of the Senate) favor development of new domestic, energy resources, an area completely ignored by the Administration.

I have opposed the "Gas Guzzler" tax which, I believe, discriminates against low and middle income citizens, and the elimination of your income tax deduction for state and local gasoline taxes. And I have successfully sponsored an amendment to provide tax incentives for the development of grain-based gasohol as an alternative fuel.

In addition, I have been working with state and local representatives in opposing proposals to stop new residential hookups of natural gas in the eastern part of Kansas.

THE ECONOMY

A national energy program is just one of many policies which will determine the future course of the American economy. In addition, proposals to reform the Social Security System, reduce and reform taxes, increase job opportunities, and provide encouragement to minorities and small business concerns are being considered in the 95th Congress.

SOCIAL SECURITY - Final decisions have been made for additional finances on the troubled Social Security System. As a result, payroll taxes for both employers and employees will be raised dramatically--a

1977 Statistics

CASEWORK

2,365 cases
Cases are inquiries and problems constituents are having with federal agencies or regulations. This number refers only to written case work handled by Senator Dole or his staff -- hundreds more were handled by phone during 1977.

TELEPHONE CALLS

1400 - 1600 per week (average)

VISITORS

3,420 in Washington Office

INCOMING MAIL

2000 - 2500 pieces per week (average)

DOLLARS RETURNED TO TREASURY

\$124,120
For the fiscal year ending Sept. 30, 1977 Senator Dole returned \$102,356 from salary funds; based on projected expenditures for the month of December, he will have a balance of \$21,764 in the Combined Office Account to return to the Treasurer at the end of this calendar year.

VOTING RECORD

Senate votes (to Dec. 13)	635
Votes missed by Senator Dole	20
Senator Dole's % voting record	97%

total of \$227 billion in the next 10 years. The final package will include my amendment to ease the earnings limitation on Social Security retirees over age 69 and to insure that Social Security checks arrive ahead of time if their scheduled arrival day falls on a weekend or holiday.

TAX REDUCTIONS AND JOB INCENTIVES - As a member of the Finance Committee, I was actively involved in efforts to substantially cut federal income taxes for all individual taxpayers. Unfortunately, we were unable to secure the passage of substantial tax cuts but will renew our efforts during the second session of the 95th Congress.

One important new job-creating tax incentive which I originally introduced a couple of years ago was passed this year: the employment tax credit. This new provision of our tax laws enables employers to get a tax break if they hire additional employees. Jobs created through this tax credit mechanism are far cheaper than federally-financed public service jobs and should provide productive, permanent employment for many.

OSHA - Although the provision was not adopted in the final appropriations bill for H.E.W., the Senate went on record as favoring my amendment to require the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to consult

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MEETING ON THE PANAMA CANAL -- Senator Dole met recently with these residents of the Panama Canal Zone who are concerned about the proposed Panama Canal Treaties.

with employers on possible methods of bringing a business into full compliance with safety standards before penalties can be imposed. As a result of this amendment, the Labor Department is developing a proposal along these lines to be presented early next year.

MINORITY BUSINESS - I introduced a bill to establish a Minority Business and Assistance Administration in the Commerce Department in order to improve federal efforts to help minority businesses. In addition, I have been working with minority businessmen in Kansas to save the Kansas City, Kansas office of Minority Business Enterprise which the Administration has proposed eliminating.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

When the City of Hillsboro, Kansas was having trouble obtaining needed federal funding for a local waterworks project because of its low rate of unemployment, I questioned the use of unemployment figures for distributing all economic development funding. In my view, the system punishes communities which have done a good job in attracting business and industry. The accuracy of these unemployment figures when broken down for small communities has been seriously questioned. And I have asked the General Accounting Office to study the way federal grant funds are distributed and to recommend possible alternative methods of allocating federal monies.

HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

During the first Session of the 95th Congress, major legislation affecting housing and community development in Kansas was considered by the Congress. I sponsored legislation which insured that 25% of the funds available under the new Urban Development Action Grant Program will go to small communities. Without this amendment, virtually all of the money would have gone into large urban areas.

I cosponsored legislation to remove the private bank loan sanction from the federal flood insurance program. Previously, the federal government has prohibited private lending institutions from financing construction in areas they deem to be flood prone unless the local community participated in the federal flood insurance program. I believe that local bankers know more about local flood problems than federal bureaucrats.

I have also strongly opposed proposals by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to remove virtually all HUD personnel from Kansas and relocate them in Kansas City, Missouri. Both the Kansas City, Kansas and Topeka HUD offices would be closed under the Carter Administration's reorganization program. I have asked the General Accounting Office to study this reorganization plan and have cosponsored a Senate Resolution which would prohibit HUD from closing its Kansas offices until Congress has had a chance to review the plan.

VETERANS AFFAIRS

I worked with several of my colleagues to secure passage of a bill which prevents the automatic eligibility for veterans' benefits to persons whose discharges from service during the Viet Nam era were under less than honorable conditions and strongly supported a bill that would increase Veterans' education benefits--the G.I. Bill--by 6.6%. This bill has been enacted into law.

HANDICAPPED AMERICANS

For handicapped Americans, 1977 was a very significant year. The White House Conference on Handicapped Individuals drew the nation's attention to a newly recognized and increasingly vocal minority, one that wants access to educational and employment opportunities. Also in 1977, the government finally issued regulations prohibiting discrimination against qualified handicapped individuals by groups which receive federal assistance.

During 1977, I sponsored legislation to include the home-bound handicapped of any age in a new national Meals-on-Wheels Program for the elderly. In addition, an amendment to install teletypewriters in the Capitol so that deaf persons can communicate with their representatives was adopted by the Senate.

Next year, the Rehabilitation Act comes up for renewal and I have introduced an amendment which would allow profit-making groups to compete for federal grants so that more equipment and technology can be utilized for research benefitting those with disabilities.

NUTRITION

Major changes were made in the national food stamp and child nutrition programs during the Session. The most significant change in the law removes the purchase requirement for food stamps. This reform, which I proposed first in 1975, will, when combined with tighter eligibility standards, enable more truly needy Americans to receive nutritional assistance.

I also sponsored legislation in the Child Nutrition Act to create a nutrition education program through grants to state education agencies. Included in this bill is a provision to restrict the sale of non-nutritious foods on school grounds.

Early in 1977, I cosponsored a resolution calling for the establishment of a Presidential Commission on Domestic and International Hunger and Malnutrition. This Commission will help define the United States World Food Policy.

The Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs will be phased out on December 31. Its responsibilities will be transferred to the new Nutrition Subcommittee of the Senate Agriculture Committee. I am

pleased to be the ranking Republican member of this group that will continue work on nutrition.

H.H.H. BUILDING

Last month, I was pleased to participate in the dedication of a new Department of Health, Education and Welfare building to Senator Hubert H. Humphrey. All of my colleagues co-sponsored the legislation I introduced to name the building in honor of the distinguished Senator from Minnesota who has worked so valiantly in the struggle for social and economic justice.

FOREIGN POLICY

THE HELSINKI COMMISSION & HUMAN RIGHTS -
As a member of the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (the Helsinki Commission) I have attended hearings held by the Commission on Soviet violations of the Human Rights provisions of the Helsinki agreement. As a member of the official United States Delegation, I attended the review conference on the Agreement in Belgrade, Yugoslavia in June and November.

In the Senate I have introduced several resolutions which reaffirm our support for the principle of equal rights and self determination for all peoples, especially those in captive nations, urged the United States Delegation to stand firm on examining human rights violations in Soviet-block nations, and urged the President to discuss the violations by the Polish Government of the Human Rights Provision of the Helsinki Agreement during his upcoming visit to Poland.

ASIA - In accord with my longstanding concern about missing American servicemen in Southeast Asia, I have opposed the Administration's efforts to "normalize" relations with Viet Nam while 2500 Americans remain unaccounted for, opposed admission of Viet Nam into the United Nations and sponsored legislation, which was approved by the Senate, to prohibit direct or indirect economic aid to Viet Nam, Cambodia, or Laos. I have also opposed the Administration's planned withdrawal of over 30,000 U.S. ground troops from South Korea and have introduced legislation, cosponsored by a dozen other Senators, which expresses our deep concern about the gross violations of human rights by the Communist Regime in Cambodia.

LATIN AMERICA AND THE PANAMA CANAL - I have strongly opposed the Panama Canal Treaties as submitted to the Senate, and have introduced several constructive amendments to the Treaties

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which would protect our rights and interests in the Canal Zone. I expect to play a leading role in the formal debate on the Canal Treaties when they are considered by the Senate early next year.

I have also opposed Administration moves towards "normalizing" relations with the Castro Regime in Cuba and have introduced legislation which would precondition U.S. normalization with Cuba on Castro's release of U.S. political prisoners and withdrawal of Cuban troops from Africa.

MIDDLE EAST - In July, I visited Jerusalem to speak to the Convention of the Zionist Organization of America and reiterated my view that Israel needs safe and secure borders. I strongly support President Sadat's initiative for peace in the Middle East and have nominated President Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Begin for the 1978 Nobel Peace Prize.

AFRICA - Because I am concerned about an emerging double standard in dealing with Africa, I introduced legislation which would prohibit shipment of U.S. military, paramilitary, or police equipment to Uganda so long as human rights violations continue there.

OTHER FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVES - In addition to the legislation discussed above, I have introduced a resolution which reaffirms our strong support for our NATO allies and which restates our determination to defend the territorial integrity of West Germany and other NATO members. In addition, I sponsored a resolution which urges the President to instruct the United States Ambassador to the United Nations.

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

Bob Dole
U.S.S.

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