

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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SENATE PASSES BILL TO POSTPONE WHEAT REFERENDUM

WASHINGTON -- The Senate and the House today passed legislation to postpone a national wheat referendum until November 15 in the hope that a new farm bill can be enacted and signed into law in the interim. The referendum, part of permanent law dating from 1949, would have been held on October 15 if Congress had failed to act. The 1977 farm bill, which suspended the referendum requirement for major commodities, expired at the end of September.

Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) stated after the vote that "if we hadn't moved to postpone the wheat referendum, the taxpayers would have paid over \$4 million in printing costs, postage, clerical expenses and salaries to set up an unnecessary and obsolete event. Referendums under the 1949 Act haven't been held since the 1960s. I doubt that Department of Agriculture records are sufficiently up to date to administer one now."

The congressional action, which required unanimous consent by senators and congressmen, followed approval by Senate Agriculture Committee members on Tuesday.

"I hope that the House will be able to complete consideration of their version of the farm bill sometime next week so that further action to delay permanent statutes will be unnecessary," Dole continued.