

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
TUESDAY, MARCH 15, 1983

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-6521

SENATE ACCEPTS DOLE EMERGENCY FOOD ACT

AS AMENDMENT TO JOBS BILL

WASHINGTON -- An amendment authored by Kansas Senator Bob Dole that would open-up vast supplies of government surplus food to the needy won unanimous approval by the Senate late today.

The amendment was attached to the jobs bill now being debated on the Senate Floor. The employment bill had already included a provision earmarking \$100 million to help distribute the surplus commodities as emergency food assistance. The Dole amendment authorizes the funds to be used for the Food Assistance and Domestic Commodity program.

"This amendment is designed to distribute -- not store -- our massive stockpiles of butter, flour, wheat, honey, soybeans, rice and milk that are approaching quality deterioration and costing taxpayers millions of dollars in storage charges," said Dole, a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

According to Dole, the government pays about \$600,000 a day just to store surplus food valued at \$3.9 billion. The Dole amendment includes no less than \$10 million for distribution of surplus food within states to food banks and other organizations that serve the needy.

"It seems incomprehensible to most Americans that, in this land of great agricultural abundance, there could actually be people suffering from hunger and malnutrition at a time when agricultural surpluses are overloading our capacity to store them through the Commodity Credit Corporation," said Senator Dole. "There has to be a practical, common sense approach which would make this surplus food available to food banks, soup kitchens, churches, and other nonprofit, charitable organizations that serve the increasing numbers of needy people in our society."