

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 1983

CONTACT: WALT RIKER  
(202) 224-6521

## DOLE ANNOUNCES REVISION OF CUSTOM CUTTER REGULATIONS

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole, ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, today announced that the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) has agreed to toughen the immigration standards for Canadian custom cutting crews entering the United States.

"This long-overdue action will provide needed protection of U.S. harvest crews. I commend the INS on its ruling to provide our domestic operators with the same protection as other U.S. industries," Dole said. "With the strong showing of the U.S. dollar outside our borders, and sharply reduced grain acreage here due to the PIK program, Canadian custom cutters were in a position to undercut their American competitors. This is why I insisted the INS look into the matter."

Dole's remarks followed receipt of a May 3 letter from the INS indicating that Canadian harvesters will now be required to apply for H-2, or temporary worker status with the Labor Department. Granting an H-2 visa requires verification that U.S. workers are either unable or unwilling to perform the necessary labor.

The INS decision overturned a 1942 agreement between the U.S. and Canadian governments under which custom cutters from both countries were allowed to cross the border with no limitation due to the manpower shortage during World War II. The May 3 letter indicated that this policy is now "inappropriate."

"Obviously, that need has long since expired and, furthermore, poses increased financial hardships on American crews when harvested acreage is reduced by programs such as the payment-in-kind (PIK) program," Dole said.

INS also ruled that, with the beginning of the U.S. harvest in Texas just around the corner, it would accept verbal affirmation of existing contracts between Canadian harvesters and U.S. growers and allow 80 days for the contracts to be fulfilled.

"Depending on how existing agreements are carried out, there could be fewer Canadian crews in U.S. fields during the 1983 harvest," Dole concluded. "American operators can be assured that, in the future, they will not be at a disadvantage when it comes to competing for U.S. business, especially due to temporary fluctuations in currency exchange rates."