

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## DOLE CHAIRS HEARING ON FOOD TO THE NEEDY --

### URGES EXTENSION OF RECESSION-RELIEF NUTRITION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole, Chairman of the Senate Agriculture Committee's Nutrition Subcommittee, today held an in-depth hearing to urge the continuance of an emergency government food distribution program for the nation's needy.

Senator Dole noted that the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Act, which helps distribute a portion of the government's \$3.9 billion worth of stored commodities to the needy, will expire at the end of September. The Temporary Act is part of a recession-relief package authored by Senator Dole and attached to the Jobs Bill which was signed into law by President Reagan on March 24, 1983.

"I think that providing surplus agricultural commodities to local food banks, soup kitchens, and other charitable organizations makes a lot of sense," said Dole. "In times of economic hardship, when Americans are in need of food, we should continue our efforts to share this country's agricultural abundance with those who are less fortunate. This kind of program should have strong support in the Congress.

The Temporary Act is modeled after Senator Dole's "Commodity Distribution Bill" (S. 17) which was introduced in January, 1983. Under the proposal, the government would help states and local recipient agencies pay the distribution and storage costs necessary to deliver its vast supplies of milk, flour, cheese, rice, honey, soybeans and butter to the poor.

"Currently, the government pays more than \$600,000 per day just to store the goods. I would like to see those funds used to help get surplus foods to those in need rather than pay to keep them in storage facilities," Dole said. "It's clear that after today's testimony by the experts, existing food programs are just not adequate to cover the real needs of the disadvantaged."

Jo Anne Elliott, Director of the Prescott Neighborhood Association of Kansas City, Kansas was among those who testified.

The hearings touched on black market problems, possible conflicts with commercial food markets and the overall effectiveness of government food giveaways. Also, the U.S. Department of Agriculture provided exhibits of its stored commodities, ranging from forty-pound blocks of cheese, bags of rice, jars of honey and boxes of dry milk.