News from Senator

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DOLE SETS RECORD STRAIGHT ON CUBA LEGISLATION

WASHINGTON -- SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KS.) SAID TODAY IT WAS TIME TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON HIS SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION RESTRICTING FOREIGN SHIPPING TO CUBA.

"Charges are being made that Bob Dole supports legislation that would 'devastate our grain trade.' Well, Bob Dole always has and always will do what he can to protect the interests of the American farmer. Somebody ought to pay a little closer attention to the facts."

The amendment which is being referred to would impose a prohibition on ships calling in both the U.S. and Cuba during a six month period. It will be offered by Senator Lawton Chiles (D-Fla.) and has bipartisan support. According to Dole, "The purpose of this legislation is very simple: to turn the economic screws on Castro's Communist regime -- a regime which conducts and underwrites military and paramilitary attacks on American interests around the world. Where I come from, wanting to keep the pressure on Castro is not 'pandering to the right' -- it is doing right," Dole said.

"The amendment is carefully drafted, to protect fully American agricultural interests. There is practically no triangular U.S. -Soviet-Cuban shipping now. Even if increased American grain sales to the Soviet Union do occur -- something I've been working for years to achieve -- the Soviets have plenty of excess shipping capacity to handle the trade bilaterally, with no Cuban angle," Dole said.

"But on top of that," Dole added, "I insisted that we include in the amendment a provision which would allow the President to waive the shipping prohibition if any sector of the U.S. economy, such as agriculture were hurt."

"The people of Iowa -- and the people of Kansas and the entire Midwest -- are familiar with my record on agriculture. No matter how others try to distort it, I'm confident my record speaks for itself."

-30-