

STATEMENT OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
FORBES FIELD
TOPEKA, KANSAS
DECEMBER 9, 1977

I AM PLEASED TO BE WITH YOU THIS AFTERNOON. TOMORROW MORNING I WILL MEET WITH MANY OF YOUR FELLOW FARMERS AT THE CAPITOL BUILDING IN WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE ECONOMIC PRESSURES WHICH HAVE BROUGHT YOU TO TOPEKA -- THE PRESSURES WHICH HAVE BROUGHT YOU TOGETHER IN THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT NATIONWIDE -- ARE REAL. FOR TOO LONG, YOU HAVE HAD TO ACCEPT ONLY MARGINAL PRICES FOR YOUR CROPS.

AS I UNDERSTAND IT, MANY OF YOU HAVE BEEN FORCED TO BORROW, TO REFINANCE, AND THEN TO BORROW AGAIN. YOU DON'T WANT MORE LOANS. YOU CERTAINLY DON'T WANT GOVERNMENT MEDDLING. YOU WANT A FAIR PRICE FOR WHAT YOU PRODUCE -- AND THAT INCLUDES A PROFIT!

WHEN THE NEW FARM BILL WAS FINALLY PASSED, I SAID THEN THAT IT WOULD NOT SOLVE THE FARMERS' PROBLEMS. BUT I HOPED IT WOULD HELP YOU STAY IN BUSINESS. THEN, IT WAS THE BEST WE COULD GET PASSED. AS YOU WELL KNOW, THOSE OF US WHO REPRESENT FARMERS IN CONGRESS ARE UP AGAINST FORMIDABLE OPPOSITION WHEN WE ATTEMPT TO HELP THE FARM ECONOMY -- OPPOSITION FROM URBAN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND,

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MORE IMPORTANTLY, OPPOSITION THIS YEAR FROM THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION. IF WE HAD ADOPTED THE ADMINISTRATION FARM BILL THE DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS YOU ARE NOW RECEIVING ON 1977 CROP WHEAT WOULD HAVE BEEN ONLY 22¢ A BUSHEL INSTEAD OF 65¢.

AND IT WAS MY AMENDMENT WHICH INCREASED THE DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS LEVEL -- A LEVEL WE WERE ABLE TO SUSTAIN BY A MARGIN OF ONLY FOUR VOTES IN THE SENATE.

THE SOLUTION WE'RE REALLY LOOKING FOR TO THE FARM CRISIS WILL BE FOUND IN THE MARKETPLACE IN PRICES FOR YOUR PRODUCTS REASONABLY REFLECTING FULL PARITY.

I SUPPORT THE AMERICAN AGRICULTURE MOVEMENT. YOU HAVE CAUGHT AMERICA'S ATTENTION JUST AS THE STRONG-WILLED AND ARTICULATE FARM WIVES FROM KANSAS DID DURING CONSIDERATION OF THE FARM BILL. AND TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT EVERY MEMBER OF CONGRESS AND EVERY SENATOR GETS THE MESSAGE, I AM ANNOUNCING TODAY THAT THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE WILL COME TO THE MIDWEST IN JANUARY TO CONDUCT HEARINGS ON THE IMPENDING AGRICULTURE DISASTER. WE WANT TO HEAR FROM AMERICAN AGRICULTURE, FROM FARMERS IN KANSAS AND FROM OUR NEIGHBORING STATES.