

# Dole wants to halt Soviets' grain exports credits

By BARRY MASSEY  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole called Monday for the suspension of U.S. agricultural export credits for the Soviet Union because of a military crackdown in the pro-independence Baltic states.

"The United States must not be a party to oppression and blackmail," Dole said in a statement.

The Kansas Republican urged the suspension of the food aid package after 14 people were killed in the Soviet Republic of Lithuania in weekend clashes with the Soviet Army.

"I believe that unless Gorbachev puts an immediate end to the threats, blackmail and aggression, that the United States should not deal with him in a business-as-usual manner," Dole said.

Last month, President Bush eased trade restrictions with the Soviet Union and granted \$1 billion in financial guarantees for the Soviets to use in buying U.S. grain and food. Dole and other Kansas lawmakers strongly supported the president's decision as a way to help bolster low grain prices, particularly wheat.

**"Gorbachev is trying to use our grain credits to blackmail ... any other republic that doesn't agree to sign the union treaty."**

Sen. Bob Dole

The Soviets already have tapped \$800 million of the \$1 billion in emergency food credits, White House spokesman Marlin

Fitzwater said. The White House said a summit scheduled for next month in Moscow was "up in the air" as the administration considered whether to impose economic sanctions.

In addition to condemning the attack in Lithuania, Dole said he had been told by the prime minister of the Soviet republic of Moldavia that republics would receive food aid only if they signed a union treaty with the central government in Moscow.

"In other words, Gorbachev is trying to use our grain credits to blackmail Moldavia, the Baltic republics and any other republic that doesn't agree to sign the union

treaty. Gorbachev has offered the people of these republics two options: sign or starve," Dole said.

In addition to the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, Moldavia, Armenia, Georgia and the Ukraine have the most active independence movements among the 15 Soviet Republics.

Dole said the grain credits should be suspended "until we receive concrete assurances from Gorbachev that feed and grain purchased with our assistance will not be used as a means of coercion, rather than it will go to the hungry people in all the republics, as it was originally intended."

## Dole: U.S. should halt grain credits

By Ray Hemman  
The Hutchinson News

WASHINGTON — Kansas Sen. Bob Dole called Monday for the suspension of grain credits to the Soviet Union because the grain can be used as a political weapon within the country.

"Our farmers aren't blood merchants," Dole told reporters at the White House. "They understand that they'll survive without selling grain at this time to the Soviet Union unless there is a dramatic change."

Also Monday, the White House said that the Moscow arms summit is "up in the air" in the aftermath of the Soviet army crackdown on Lithuania, and that President Bush is reconsidering his economic help for the ailing Soviet economy.

White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said the Soviets had assured the United States that President Mikhail S. Gor-

bachev is still seeking a peaceful solution to the strife in the Baltics.

But Fitzwater said "we don't really know" whether Gorbachev was in the dark about the decision to storm a Vilnius television station and tower with tanks and paratroopers. Fourteen people were killed and scores injured.

Richard Boucher, deputy spokesman at the State Department, said "the world is waiting to get a full explanation" from the Soviets about the tragedy.

Dole said the Soviets' crackdown threatens to disrupt the gains that have been made in recent months.

"With the weekend's disturbing events in Lithuania, we need to re-examine certain aspects of our new relationship with Moscow," Dole said.

Dole said he had been told by the prime minister of the Soviet Republic of Moldavia that Gor-



Sen. Bob Dole

bachev was trying to use the grain credits to "blackmail" the republics. The republics have been asked to sign a union treaty in order to benefit from the grain credits.

Last month, the Bush administration approved \$1 billion in credit for the Soviets to buy food and feed grain. Until the administration's approval, the currency-

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strapped Soviets had to pay cash for grain because of the Jackson-Vanik amendment. The amendment imposed certain economic penalties on the Soviets because of the country's past refusal to allow Jews to emigrate.

The waiver was granted because it appears that the Soviets are allowing more emigration by Jewish families. Already, the Soviets have used about \$800 million of the credits.

But the human rights violations by the Soviet military and the change in reform policies cloud the issue.

"While I have been a strong advocate of the recent decision to provide \$1 billion in grain credits to the Soviet Union, I believe that we should suspend grain credits to the Soviet Union until we receive concrete assurances from Gorbachev that feed and grain purchased with our assistance will not be used as a means of coercion, rather than it will go to the hungry people in all the republics, as it was originally intended," Dole said.

Howard Tice, executive director of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers, said he could support Dole's stand, given that food could be used by the Soviets as an internal political weapon.

"We have said for years that we are opposed to food being used as a foreign policy weapon," Tice said.

But Rep. Dan Glickman, D-Kan., was not as quick to call for the suspension of credit. While he does not like what is going on in the Soviet Union in terms of troops' quashing internal dissension, he does not want to react too hastily.

"We are in a very, very tenuous political time in the world," Glickman said Monday in a telephone interview from the inauguration of Kansas Gov. Joan Finney. "I am nervous about making such statements so soon."

Glickman said he would review the situation in depth Wednesday when he returns to Washington.

## Persian Gulf crisis

### Dole wants to be told before attack

By BARBARA JOSEPH  
The Capital-Journal

Sen. Bob Dole on Tuesday said he and other congressional leaders hope President Bush will notify them ahead of time of a decision to use force against Iraq.

In a conference call from Washington with Kansas reporters, the Senate minority leader said it was in the president's and the nation's best interest to keep the top four GOP and Democratic leaders informed.

"Congress has now authorized the use of force," the Kansas Republican said. "We're part of the partnership in this, and, as partners, we should be consulted, notified in advance, not notified after something happens."

Dole characterized Washington as "very quiet" and said there weren't many good ideas on how to resolve the crisis floating around. He said he hadn't talked to anyone who thought conflict in the Persian Gulf could be avoided.

"It doesn't sound good at this point," he said, just seven hours before the U.N. deadline and after Iraq had rebuffed a last-minute peace initiative by France.

Under a United Nations Security Council deadline, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had until Tuesday at 11 p.m. Topeka time to withdraw his forces from Kuwait or face a possible military strike by the United States and its allies.

Dole and other GOP and Democratic senators met earlier in the day with Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney. But Dole said he hadn't the "foggiest notion" when the United States would go to war and wouldn't say even if he did know because that would spoil a surprise attack.

He did say he didn't think the conflict would start at one minute after the deadline. And he emphasized his continued hope for peace, characterizing himself as an optimist.

Dole said everyone had closed ranks behind Commander-in-Chief Bush and the young men and women serving in the Gulf.

"Everybody's speaking with one



Bob Dole

"It doesn't sound good"

voice," he said. "It's up to Saddam Hussein now to make the next move."

Asked whether Saddam, faced with his country's destruction, knew something the United States didn't, Dole responded, "If he doesn't move, he never really cared for his people or his country. It seems to me that this man has to come to his senses."

He said he thought the Arab coalition, with the exception of Syria, would hold together in the event of war. Syria could balk if Israel returned an attack by Iraq, he said.

"Saddam Hussein better think twice before he attacks Israel," Dole said.

He said the government, U.S. embassies and appropriate agencies were doing what they should to prevent terrorism from striking this country or others as a result of the crisis.

On another matter, Dole said he supported giving financial aid directly to the Soviet secessionist republic of Lithuania, recently attacked by Soviet forces. Dole said he also would like to see suspension of credit to the Soviets until they agree to let democracy survive in the Baltics and elsewhere.

## Suspend food credits for Soviets, Dole says

Lithuanian violence sparks call to cut off aid

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole called Monday for the suspension of U.S. agricultural export credits for the Soviet Union because of a military crackdown in the Baltic states.

The Kansas Republican urged the suspension of the food aid after 14 people were killed in the Soviet republic of Lithuania in weekend clashes with the Soviet army.

President Bush eased trade restrictions with the Soviet Union in December, granting \$1 billion in financial guarantees for the Soviets to use in buying U.S. grain and other food. Dole and other Kansas lawmakers strongly supported the president's decision as a way to help bolster low grain prices, particularly wheat.

But Monday, Dole and other farm-state congressmen called for a stop to the Soviet aid.

And representatives of Kansas wheat growers agreed.

"We won't allow our wheat to be used as a weapon," said Howard Tice, head of the Kansas Association of Wheat Growers. "I don't think the American farmer would stand for that."

The Soviets already have tapped \$800 million of the \$1 billion in emergency food aid, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said.

Contributing: Anne Fitzgerald of The Eagle



Dole backed Bush's decision to ease trade restrictions but the Soviet crackdown in Lithuania changed his mind.

## Dole keeps up hope war can be avoided

By Angelia Herrin  
Eagle Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Sen. Bob Dole of Kansas said Tuesday he remains "optimistic" that war in the Persian Gulf can be avoided, but said briefings and reports over the previous 48 hours present a gloomy picture.

"It doesn't sound good at this point. I haven't talked to anybody today who doesn't think we'll end up in conflict," Dole said.

"A lot of people are in the halls (of Congress), talking to each other, looking for ideas ... So far there's not many good ideas."

Dole, who met with President Bush late Monday and with Secretary of Defense Dick Cheney on Tuesday, said there is still time for Iraq to avert the offensive attack authorized by the U.N. resolution.

"I don't think we start at one after midnight," Dole said. "Right now there. I have a feeling they're not going to spike prices ... but if that happens, I would first back release of the strategic (oil) reserve, just to break their backs," Dole said.

**"Right now they know we are down to the wire."**

Sen. Bob Dole

Dole said he did not know what timetable the administration held for launching an offensive against Iraq, but said he hoped the White House would notify the Senate and House leadership.

"I would hope he'll call us ahead of time. We're part of the partnership and as partners we should be consulted, notified in advance, not notified after something happens," Dole said.

If oil prices shoot up in the wake of the outbreak of war in the Persian Gulf, Dole warned that oil companies might see Congress consider revival of the windfall profits tax.

"There's plenty of supply out there. I have a feeling they're not going to spike prices ... but if that happens, I would first back release of the strategic (oil) reserve, just to break their backs," Dole said.