

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
NEW SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 225-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. March 2, -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today warned his colleagues on the Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs of overstepping the committee's jurisdictional boundaries.

In a statement before the select committee's opening hearings, Dole said:

"We are beginning a new series of hearings into the somewhat ambiguous area of 'hunger and the income gap.'

"Hopefully, the emphasis will be on matters over which this Committee has jurisdiction.

"If we are to discuss malnutrition, then this is the correct forum -- but, if we are to dissect the President's Family Assistance Program (s. 2986), we would be well advised to adjourn in deference to the Committee on Finance, before which the bill is pending.

"Last year, this Committee assumed jurisdiction over Food Stamp Programs and School Lunch Programs.-- at least de facto jurisdiction.

"During debate on continuing the life of this committee -- a recommendation I supported -- both the Chairman and Ranking Republican of the Agriculture Committee expressed their concern for what they viewed as a significant overstepping of defined jurisdiction by the Nutrition Committee.

"Now it would appear the Committee is moving on from the confines of Agriculture's jurisdiction to the broader realm heretofore overseen and presided over by the Committee on Finance. As long as we are in the Finance Committee's area, we might as well start on a new tax reform bill, farm program, the war in Vietnam, the space program and air pollution.

"We all recognize the gravity of malnutrition in this nation. There is, as stated in the debate on this Committee's continuation, much unfinished work which does lie within the jurisdiction granted by the Senate.

"Let us focus our attention and efforts on those problems which are clearly ours. By so doing, this Committee can best fulfill its mandate and serve the American people."