

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

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CHICAGO, ILL., Sept. 5 -- "It is vitally important -- for both urban and rural America -- that Congress make a positive commitment to the development and growth of rural America," U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) said here today. Dole spoke at a breakfast meeting of the Associated Milk Producers, Inc.

"This commitment must go beyond normal agricultural programs such as price supports, parity relationships and acreage allotments," he continued.

"For many years, those of us in the Congress from states with lots of fresh air and plenty of wide open spaces have been saying that our states have the answers to the urban crisis. We can offer room for growth, space for living and a real partnership in community development.

"But rural America, too, has problems -- declining population, slow economic growth and deficiencies in public and governmental services.

"With the problems and potentials of both rural and urban America in mind, Senator Herman Talmadge (D-Ga.) and I have introduced a rural development amendment to the Senate Farm Bill."

Dole said the amendment has five principal points:

1 -- It directs all government departments and agencies to establish and maintain policies which would assure preference in the location of new offices and other facilities to areas of lower population density.

2 -- It directs further cooperation between the Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Department of Agriculture in planning for the development of rural multi-county economic areas not included in economically depressed areas.

3 -- It provides guidelines to the Department of Agriculture that would assure the availability of technical assistance to the leaders of rural communities.

4 -- It assures that rural communities would be treated with the highest priority in the provision of all government services. Special emphasis would be placed on adequate transportation, communication, water and sewer systems, health and medical care, protection and educational facilities.

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5 -- It requests a report on the possible utilization of the Farm Credit Administration and agencies of the Department of Agriculture to provide needed financial assistance in developing rural America.

"We feel this amendment is a vital first step in developing a coherent and coordinated legislative program for rural development," Dole said.

"Prospects for both House and Senate approval are good," he predicted. "By improving the quality of life in rural America and increasing the attractiveness of the alternative to urban America, the entire nation will be richer and the lives of all our citizens will be fuller."

The 1970 Farm Bill and the Talmadge-Dole amendment have been reported favorably by the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee and now await action by the Senate.

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