

STATEMENT OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
ON THE SENATE FLOOR
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1970

507

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

POLITICS FIRST

I wish to express my disapproval of the announced intentions by the majority leadership of the Senate to delay and possibly kill the conference report on H.R. 18546, The Agricultural Act of 1970.

For two years, Congress has been considering this legislation. This bill passed the House by a vote of 212 to 171 -- the largest margin on a Farm Bill I can recall in the ten years I have been a member of Congress. It has the support of the Administration. The 212 House members voting for the bill included the leaders of both parties, and of the 212, 126 were Democrats, 86, Republicans.

While the Senate has traditionally supported Farm Legislation, this action by the leadership now jeopardizes the whole Farm Program.

THE WINTER WHEAT PRODUCER NEEDS TO KNOW

I recognize that some segments of agriculture will not be immediately affected by the delay, but, the winter wheat producer will certainly suffer and bear the brunt of this political delay. In addition, the orderly planning and continuation of Public Law 480 (the Food For Peace Program), the National Wool Act and the Special Dairy Programs for the armed services and veterans hospitals are all thrown into jeopardy.

Year after year, the winter wheat producer plants without knowing what the exact provisions of the program may be, or whether there will be a program at all. It is inconceivable

to me that action on the already-delayed Farm Bill should be delayed even further. From a political standpoint, I can see no advantage to Democrats for holding up the bill. In fact, I am of the opinion that farmers recognize that Democrats control the Senate and that the Democrat leadership is certainly in a position to call up the conference report at any time after it is acted upon by the other body.

There has been no assurance given that the leadership intends to act even after the election recess, but in the meantime, the damage has been done, and the will of the majority of the Senate, as well as the will of the House and the Administration, has been again frustrated.