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WASHINGTON, D.C., Jan. 7, 1972 --- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today requested Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz to initiate a program of optional acreage diversion of wheatland. Dole said that recent USDA reports of winter wheat plantings indicate a nine per cent increase.

In a telegram to Butz, Dole said, "Such a program could avert excessive production and stabilize wheat prices next summer."

From his office in Kansas City, Kans., today, Dole explained that "production from the nine per cent increase in acreage will depress prices next summer." He added that "if the Secretary institutes an additional diversion program immediately, it will encourage spring wheat producers not to plant this spring, and the diverted winter wheat acreage be utilized for livestock grazing." Dole praised Butz for his "bold initiative" since taking office and said he is confident that a favorable response to his request will be forthcoming.

The Kansas Senator continued:

Our farmers are entitled to a better price for their wheat. Recent dock strikes have lowered wheat prices and we need to protect against further depression from over production.