



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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U.S. CAN'T BE PART TIME HUMANITARIAN, SAYS DOLE

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- In a speech delivered on the Senate floor, Senator Bob Dole spoke against possible cut-backs in the P.L. 480, Food For Peace program. Dole said the U.S. must continue to honor its commitment to world-wide nutrition improvement and not just do so in times of surplus.

The administration is considering a cut-back in the program. Dole said that such action would seriously disrupt the nutrition and food supply activities of "America's great voluntary agencies for overseas relief and rehabilitation ... CARE, the Protestant Church World Service and Lutheran World Relief, Catholic Relief Service and its Caritas counterparts, The American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee and others." These agencies, said Dole, distribute food to "some 45 million school age children and another 10,000,000 infants and pregnant or nursing mothers .. in some 100 countries."

Noting that we do not have a surplus in many commodities, Dole said that rather than cutting the program off, "we should tailor the availabilities under P.L. 480 to those commodities in relatively better supply, even though they are not in surplus ... Other developed nation's he added, "should be urged to do more or to share in the costs."

Dole has also argued against controls on U.S. grain exports. There have been suggestions recently that an export embargo or controls program be instituted.

Export embargoes or controls, Dole says, cannot be administered without the strong risk of "breaking the market to low levels once again" thereby reducing "farm income in every State producing affected commodities," and forcing a "return to the multi-billion dollar farm subsidies" of the past and endangering relations with our trading partners. Dole says that controls on exports would be justified only in the case of an immediate threat to our own domestic food supply.