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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR RELEASE UPON RECEIPT

Washington--After meeting with baling wire industry representatives and government officials on January 24, Senator Bob Dole was assured by the Cost of Living Council that they would issue new regulations which should help ease the baling wire shortage.

Dole had called the meeting to discuss measures to increase the production of baling wire. During his two week trip through Kansas it was a concern that cropped up often in the 62 public meetings he held.

Baling wire has become a scarce commodity due to the general world-wide tight supply of steel products. Also, many steel companies have diverted stocks previously used in its production to higher-profit items.

Attending the meeting were Kansas Congressman Keith Sebelius, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Bob Poage, representatives of Armaco Steel, Colorado Fuel & Iron, Cost of Living Council, Department of Commerce, Department of Agriculture and several other Midwest Senators.

"We have a small crisis on our hands in Kansas because of the baling wire shortage," Dole said at the meeting, "and the secondary effect of the baling wire shortage on the beef industry may have even more serious consequences."

Dole said changes in Cost of Living Council regulations should give some relief to steel manufacturers who have recently requested price increases. "The new regulations should stimulate the production of baling wire now, in time to make adequate stocks available next spring and summer. The purpose of the CLC action is to remove the artificial economic disincentives which prior CLC regulations may have posed for baling wire manufacturers. Now that the changes have been made, I am hopeful that the industry will respond with increased production."