



NEWS from  
**U.S. Senator  
Bob Dole**

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DOLE DISCUSSES RURAL NEEDS, NOTES IMPACT OF WHEAT EXPORTS ON ECONOMY

PRATT, KANSAS -- In a speech prepared for delivery here Saturday night, Senator Dole called the decision to temporarily suspend wheat import quotas the "lesser of two evils."

"Though I opposed the suspension and wrote the President as late as last week urging that he not take that action, I am willing to admit that it may be a productive one in one sense. It may forestall any further calls for action to interfere with those agricultural trade practices (by limiting wheat exports) which have so improved the situation of the American farmer over the course of the last few years.

"Since Canadian wheat is currently selling at a higher price than our own, there is likely to be little market distortion as a result of the suspension of the import quotas.

"If, as I suspect, there is not a critical shortage between now and the time this years crop starts coming in, the suspension of quotas will have done nothing to adversely affect the long overdue trend toward improvement in the economic condition of the American farmer."

Dole said it would be a challenge in the urban-oriented Congress "to make sure that the progress we make in meeting the problems facing rural Americans at least keeps pace with the progress we may make with the problems of the nation at large."

Using the energy problem as an example Dole said that bright spots cited in the national energy situation have had little affect on rural homeowners. "Nationally, fuel reserves are up. Heating oil appears to be in good supply and the price is falling. But that can be little comfort to the rural homeowner who heats with propane for which he is still paying two and three times as much this year as last."

Dole said that Federal Energy Administrator William Simon's announcement of a change in regulations regarding propane prices was a "start, but it doesn't go far enough. So I have introduced legislation in the Senate to order a roll back of propane prices -- a roll back the effect of which, I would expect, would be to at least cut in half the monthly fuel bills of people who heat with propane. If I can't get quick action on the measure through committee consideration, then I will introduce it as an amendment on the floor on the Senate at the earliest opportunity."

(A full text of Senator Dole's remarks is attached.)