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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE, BUTZ DISCUSS FERTILIZER SUPPLY

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today asked Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz to contact officials of fertilizer producing companies to discuss voluntary measures to help relieve severe hardships resulting from the fertilizer shortage.

"Many farmers have advised me that they have been completely cut off from any supply," the Senator said. "Recognizing that companies want to protect their regular customers, and properly should, I feel that something should be done to help those farmers whose fertilizer supply has been severely curtailed or cut off. I suggested this Tuesday to fertilizer industry representatives at Senate Agriculture Committee hearings into the fertilizer shortage."

Secretary Butz told the Senator that he had been in contact with fertilizer company officials and would discuss with them the possibility of a voluntary program. Dole had expressed hope to Butz that a voluntary program could be worked out between the Department of Agriculture and the fertilizer industry and the Senator promised to continue efforts to assist the industry in maintaining a high level of production.