



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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INCREASED AID FOR ELDERLY SOUGHT

BELLEVILLE -- Senator Bob Dole has cosponsored an amendment which includes two provisions to extend central feeding programs for the elderly. This amendment to Title VII of the Older Americans Act would increase authorization for the feeding program to \$250 million from the existing \$100 million. It would also authorize \$35 million to provide supportive transportation, and priority for allocation of these funds would be given to areas where no public transportation exists. Funds provided by the program could be used to support the already established Meals on Wheels programs operating in some areas of Kansas.

Two other measures supported by Dole were reported to the Senate Wednesday. Both were written by the Subcommittee on Agricultural Research and General Legislation, of which Dole is ranking Republican member.

The first would permanently extend authorization for the commodity distribution which benefits welfare recipients and others who qualify under poverty guidelines. Previously only surplus commodities have been purchased and because surplus is no longer available, the program would have been disbanded June 30. This bill will extend the program indefinitely by allowing the Department of Agriculture to buy commodities. It would also allow food stamp distribution on Indian Reservations.

The second bill reported combines several pending bills to increase aid available for school lunch programs. The measure would increase donated commodities from 7¢ to 10¢ per meal, increase food equipment authorization from \$20 million to \$40 million, increase federal reimbursement in the special school milk program from 4¢ to 5¢ per half pint and increase the authorization for the 1975 Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) from \$40 million to \$130.

Dole said programs extended and expanded by these bills "have proven their merit and warrant the continuation we have proposed."