



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE WANTS RAPID ACTION ON DISASTER DECLARATION

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today sent telegrams to President Gerald Ford and Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz regarding the disastrous weather conditions which have affected widespread areas of Kansas.

Dole told Ford of the effects of the week-end storm which struck parts of north central and eastern Kansas. "Damage assessment is underway in Republic, Marshall, Washington, Osage, Franklin and Anderson counties" and as many as nine others were seriously affected by the storms. Dole requested of the President that "such action as necessary to alert agencies involved be taken to ensure that prompt consideration and activation of benefits."

Dole's office has been in contact with the Federal Disaster Assistance Administration both in Washington and in Kansas City and has been assured he will be kept advised of developments with respect to possible Federal assistance for victims of the week-end storm.

In his telegram to Butz, Dole referred to the damage to crops from recent hail storms which has compounded the adverse effect of widespread drought conditions. Dole suggested that "responsibility for damage appraisal be taken out of the State ASC office and delegated to County ASC Committees under the direction of the State Executive Director. Such action," he said, "would enable land to be worked and planted to wheat during September." Dole emphasized the need for prompt action on this recommendation because, he said, "the ASC indicates it is already behind 3300 applications for appraisal of drought disaster" following the routine appraisal procedures. "It must be done now," Dole added, "farmers cannot afford to wait for a beauracracry that is already behind."