



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE PROTECTS FARM TRADE

WASHINGTON, D.C.-- A technical amendment introduced by Senator Bob Dole, and approved by the Senate late Friday during debate on the Trade bill, would facilitate expanded agricultural trade by allowing agricultural agreements to be negotiated together with industrial sectors.

"Expansion of agricultural exports offers our country its greatest opportunity to improve our balances of trade and payments to meet the increased cost of imports of petroleum and other essential raw materials now in short supply," Dole said. "Because we have already lifted most restrictions on the importation of foreign agricultural commodities, we have in effect given away most of our bargaining chips in agriculture. Since we have little bargaining room left, negotiations limited strictly to the agricultural sector would offer little promise of expanded agricultural exports. Farm exports are vitally related to the well-being of our national economy and my amendment will facilitate keeping farm exports at a level beneficial to that economy."

The amendment would permit U. S. negotiators in upcoming trade talks to use the high efficiency of U. S. food production to gain concessions from other nations to accept an expanded quantity of American food exports. Dole said that Kansans working in farming and agribusiness received \$1.6 billion for agricultural exports in FY 1974 and that this amount would undoubtedly rise.

The amendment eliminates ambiguity between two sections of the Trade bill. One section stressed negotiation of trade agreements covering many areas of trade -- a multi-sector approach. The other section directed a single-sector approach -- trade agreements covering only one sector of trade.