



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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## SENATE AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE TO PROBE FOOD STAMP VENDORS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Possible misuse of government funds by food stamp vendors will be the subject of a hearing by the Senate Agricultural Research Subcommittee on January 21st, it was announced today by Senator Bob Dole, ranking Minority member, and Senator James B. Allen (D-Ala.), Chairman of the Subcommittee. The hearing, requested by Senator Dole, was prompted by news reports that government auditors have turned up nearly \$9 million in undeposited receipts after an audit of 18 businesses which sell food stamps to the public. Officials of the Department of Agriculture will appear at the hearing to more fully explain the problem.

"Although potential misuse of government food stamp funds has been discovered in only 18 instances, with over 14,000 vendors nationwide, the potential for more widespread abuse is immense. The Congress and the public deserve to know the extent of the problem and exactly what steps the Department of Agriculture is taking to uncover and correct it," Dole said.

"These revelations, coming on top of the recent admission by the Agriculture Department that over \$260 million had been wasted in overpayments to some food stamp recipients, appear to be further evidence of loose administration of the multi-billion dollar Food Stamp Program by the USDA. Clearly, fundamental reform of the basic food stamp law is urgently required."

Dole is the sponsor of a comprehensive Food Stamp Reform Bill which will be considered by the Subcommittee on January 26th and 27th.