



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE PLANS GRAIN INSPECTION BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today announced that grain inspection legislation will be introduced in the Senate on Wednesday to tighten up the U.S. grain inspection system as a result of the Senate Agriculture Committee and General Accounting Office investigations.

"Farmers of this nation need some assurance that the grain they produce for export will be delivered to foreign buyers with the same quality as when it leaves the farm," Dole said today in commenting on the release of the GAO grain inspection report. "Widespread bribery of grain inspectors, samplers and others involved in the inspection process at our ports, has been substantiated by this report and also by information and subsequent indictments obtained by the Justice Department," Dole continued. "We must strengthen the pertinent laws to assure the integrity of the system and to protect our farmers."

"As our hearings and investigation in the Senate Agriculture Committee showed, operation of the present system is riddled with abuse," Dole continued. "That is why I am co-authoring legislation to be introduced Wednesday. The GAO investigation confirms the results of our findings in the Senate Agriculture Committee and the need for our legislation."

"This legislation will require inspection of all grain by federal inspectors as it is loaded for export. Licensed state and private inspectors will no longer perform this inspection. Federal port inspection," Dole emphasized, "will continue to have an appeal procedure, based on federal supervisors, to maintain protection against human error."

The GAO report indicated that the acceptance of bribes and gratuities have been considered a "way of doing business." Dole's new legislation would require more thorough policing and prosecution with greatly increased criminal and civil penalties for violators.

"Inland inspection systems will be greatly improved and tightened up," Dole said, "through the contracting of licensed state or independent inspection agencies. Our bill contains a prohibition against any conflict of interest in the ownership of independent licensed inspection companies."

One major provision of the new bill resulting from the GAO investigation is the added authority given the Secretary of Agriculture to better insure the accurate and proper weighing of grain. The Kansas Senator said the investigation indicated that inaccurate weighing, particularly at the ports, has been rampant and that this must be stopped.