



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1976

DOLE WILL OFFER AMENDMENT TO EXEMPT CUSTOM CUTTERS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today said he plans to introduce an amendment to exempt custom combine operators and hay balers from the new registration requirements proposed by the Department of Labor.

"The law under which the Labor Department has promulgated these regulations-- the Farm Labor Contractor Registration Act -- was intended to regulate labor brokers who hire migratory labor," Dole said. "Two totally different situations are being confused. Labor brokers operate on a much different basis than the custom combine operators and hay balers. Regulations appropriate for them simply do not make sense for custom cutters."

Dole said custom operators are businessmen with a relatively large capital investment in specialized machinery and their employees are generally highly skilled enough to find a job someplace else if working conditions are inadequate. He indicated that custom operators already have a strong incentive to take appropriate safety measures due to their investment, and to provide adequate working and living facilities for the crew due to demand for this kind of labor. In addition, many states have safety and health standards for the operators to follow and the added federal certification would constitute unnecessary interference by the federal government and wasted time on the part of operators.

Without an exemption, the custom operators would be required to register with the state employment office to obtain certificates of compliance with certain health, safety and wage and hour requirements. "Custom operators have always maintained close contact with the employment services which assist in directing crews to harvest areas during the harvest period. They should be allowed to continue in this manner without worrying about additional federal forms and certificates," Dole said.

Dole indicated that sheepshearing crews may be in a similar situation to custom cutters and that he is looking into seeing if they should be exempted under the amendment as well.