



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1976 JANET ANDERSON

DOLE URGES SWIFT ACTION ON ESTATE TAX RELIEF

Hays -- Senator Bob Dole said today that reform of the unfair and antiquated federal estate tax should be the number one Congressional tax reform priority. Dole, speaking in Hays, said that he will continue to push for inclusion of estate tax relief in the tax revision bill now being considered by the Senate Finance Committee.

"The estate tax exemption level of \$60,000 has not been changed since 1942, despite the fact that inflation has greatly increased property values. As a result, estate taxes have been pushed upward and many small businesses and family farms must be sold each year just to pay the tax bill to the federal government. And the Congressional majority has stood idly by, content to let inflation increase tax rates," Dole said.

Dole, a member of the Senate Finance Committee, charged that the House Ways and Means Committee, "dominated by so-called tax reformers, chose to ignore the plight of the small businessman and farmer when it passed its tax reform bill last year. Hopefully, the Senate will insist that estate tax reform be coupled with any other major revision of federal tax laws."

Dole has introduced legislation which would increase the federal estate tax exemption level from \$60,000 to \$200,000. In addition, Dole's bill would force Internal Revenue Service agents to appraise the value of farmland on the basis of its current use rather than its development potential. In this way, grossly inflated values for farmland would be lowered, thus reducing the estate tax burden on family farms.

"If drastic changes are not made in the federal estate tax, the federal government will eventually force most farms out of family hands. The short-term gain in revenues to the Federal Treasury will more than be offset by the demise of a great American institution -- the family farm, which is passed down from generation to generation," Dole said.