



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE SAYS ADMINISTRATION ATTEMPTING TO MAKE THE FARMER A WHIPPING BOY FOR INFLATION

Washington, D.C. --- Senator Bob Dole(R-Kansas), the ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, said today the new agricultural initiatives announced by the Administration attempts to make the farmer a whipping boy for inflation. "Farmers are bearing the burden of inflation and are being forced, because of inaction by the Administration, to accept below cost of production prices paid for their crops and constantly rising prices for their supplies", Senator Dole said.

The Kansas Senator said today's announcement by the Administration was a weak response to a very critical problem and was a clear signal to American farmers -- and consumers as well -- that the Administration really doesn't care about the financial plight of farmers and the long-run supply and price of food to the consumer.

"The Administration only acted after they were backed to the wall by the American farmer and the Congress. It is now obvious to anyone who understands the farmers' plight that the Administration is trying to pull the rug out from under farmers and the Congress. They are fighting what the American Agriculture Movement feels the farmer needs and what the Congress is willing to do to save the family farm."

Senator Dole said it is impossible to respond totally to today's initiatives because many of the necessary details of the program were not announced. For example, the rate of payment for feed grain land diversion was not released. Even though many of the details are missing it is clear that the new initiatives are too little, too late, and very complicated. It is doubtful that farmers will respond in large numbers."

"It will be clearly up to the House and Senate Conferees meeting next week to hammer out some meaningful compromise, if American agriculture is to be rescued from the economic disaster aggravated by President Carter's failure to respond to their needs."

"The Administration is using scare tactics about rising inflation and higher food prices to drive a wedge between farmers and consumers. Farmers are tired of being the whipping boy for inflation and cheap food policies." I will continue to work for the legislative initiatives I have supported during the past few months."