



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE FARM CREDIT LEGISLATION ADOPTED BY U.S. SENATE

WASHINGTON, D.C....."The Agricultural Credit Assistance Act of 1978, which passed the U.S. Senate today, is very important to the farmers, ranchers, and consumers of this country," Senator Bob Dole said today.

"An adequate up-to-date program is vital to the continued success of family farmers especially in a time of financial crisis," Dole said.

The Kansas Senator stated, "Most of the provisions in the credit bill passed today were included in bills I introduced in the Senate in January of 1976 and in February of 1978."

"I have been concerned about the need to update some of the farmer loan programs of the FmHA for several years. S. 2146 makes a number of amendments to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act to improve FmHA's delivery of services to farmers and rural America. These admendments will be of substantial assistance to the farmers in deep economic distress today, " Dole stated.

"More credit is not the answer to farm problems, more income and constant prices for supplies is the answer. Many farmers, though, do need credit to survive until we can solve the farm price problem and get prices up, " Dole said.

"It is important that the conference meet as soon as possible so the bill can be sent to the President. Time is very important and many farmers and bankers are awaiting the passage of this bill before deciding on the financial road to take in the next few months. The road to survival or foreclosure and sell out, " the ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee said.

"It has become clear that many farmers will need special credit assistance in 1978 to ease the pressure of unmanageable payments due on existing debt, and provide themselves with working capital so that they can earn their way back to solvency."

"Due to the cost price squeeze, farm debt has nearly doubled since 1974 to the unprecedented level of \$119 billion outstanding at the beginning of this year. For many farmers, current debt load is becoming unmanageable, " Dole said.