

NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
FRIDAY, JULY 14, 1978

CONTACT: BILL KATS, PAT ROBERTS
(202) 224-8947 225-2715

DOLE, SEBELIUS URGE BERGLAND TO INITIATE A PROGRAM OF GRASSHOPPER, CHINCHBUG ERADICATION

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) and Rep. Keith Sebelius (R-Kan.) today asked Secretary of Agriculture Bob Bergland to initiate a program of grasshopper and chinchbug eradication.

In a telegram to Secretary Bergland, the Kansas Republicans cited legal statutes that give the secretary of agriculture authority to coordinate and implement an emergency pest control program in a multi-state region. Dole and Sebelius said the program could be carried out immediately on a ~~_____~~ with affected states by the Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS).

Dole and Sebelius said they decided on the action after a meeting yesterday organized by Kansas Gov. Robert Bennett between agricultural representatives of five Great Plains states and representatives from APHIS and the Environmental Protection Agency failed to yield a solution to the problem.

Grasshopper and chinchbug infestations now pose a serious threat to agricultural production in several Great Plains states, including Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska and Oklahoma. Insect damage to crops, both actual and potential, is widespread, and actions of individual farmers have had only limited effect. Threatened are this year's alfalfa, corn and sorghum crops, along with rangeland and this fall's wheat crop.

Following is the text of the Dole, Sebelius telegram:

We know that you are aware of the extremely critical problem of grasshopper and chinchbug infestations in Kansas and throughout the High Plains region. Action by individual farmers has not been effective. A coordinated program of eradication is needed.

Yesterday, Kansas Gov. Robert Bennett organized a meeting between agricultural representatives of five Great Plains states and the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Environmental Protection Agency. Although this meeting was informative, no solution to the problem was reached.

The department is authorized by the Agricultural Acts of August 20, 1912, September 21, 1944 and May 23, 1957, to coordinate and implement a program of pest eradication in a multi-state region on an emergency basis. These authorities are lodged in the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service's (APHIS) Pest Control Program.

We ask that you utilize these statutory authorities to immediately initiate a coordinated program of grasshopper eradication in the affected region.