



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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ADMINISTRATION SUGAR PROGRAM COSTS AMERICAN CORN GROWERS ABOUT \$160 MILLION

LINCOLN, NEBRASKA....."The sugar program of the Carter Administration has cost the American corn grower about \$160 million during the past several months," Senator Bob Dole said today.

Senator Dole, in a speech to the annual meeting of the National Corn Growers Association, said this morning, "In the current marketing year corn prices could have been about 4 cents a bushel higher if the Carter Administration had not mishandled the sugar program."

"The record sugar imports in 1977 prevented the use of about 60 million bushels of corn at refineries. A million tons of imported sugar was used instead. The cash income of corn growers was reduced by about \$160 million," Dole stated.

The Kansas Senator said, "USDA economists estimate that for every 100 million bushels of added disappearance or use, the value of the corn crop goes up 7¢ per bushel."

Dole, ranking Republican on the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee, said that corn sweeteners are gaining increasing acceptance in the food and beverage industry. Already about ten percent of the cash corn crop goes to the corn refineries, primarily to produce sweeteners.

Dole said the Administration has clearly ignored the intent of the Congress in implementing a sugar program. Rather than impose import fees, the administration had made payments of about \$200 million.

"At this very moment, the Administration is delaying the imposition of a higher import fee to give the sugar users a chance to get some cheap imported sugar under contract. Nevertheless, consumer prices for sugar products rise to record levels. The consumer nor the farmer is benefiting from this cheap, under cost of production sugar. Every move the Administration has taken on sugar is directly opposed to the best interest of corn growers," Dole stated.