



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE, CURTIS ATTEMPT TO CLEAR BANNED PESTICIDE FOR USE AGAINST GRASSHOPPERS

WASH WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) and Sen. Carl Curtis (R-Neb.) today attempted to amend the Endangered Species Act to provide a 45-day exemption from EPA's ban on the use of Heptachlor, so that the chemical might be used to help control the spread of the grasshopper population in the Midwest. The attempt was ruled out of order.

The amendment was proposed to provide the chemical as an effective, proven control method for grasshoppers, which according to the USDA have infested eight states in the High Plains area -- Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas, Nebraska, Wyoming, North Dakota and South Dakota.

"Three grasshoppers per square yard is considered safe or normal," Dole said, "but eight grasshoppers per square yard constitute a threat, according to entomologists. In western Kansas and other areas, we have an infestation of 30, and as many as 60 insects per square yard."

The grasshoppers pose an immediate threat to all rangeland, and crops such as corn, grain sorghum, sugar beets and soybeans throughout the High Plains, Dole said, and in 90 days, following a new hatch, they could wipe out the sprouting, emerging winter wheat crop.

Heptachlor is a proven chemical, Dole said, adding that under the provisions of the amendment it could only be used for 45 days following enactment, and under rigid application controls.

"Unless this action is taken, this eight-state area faces a disaster amounting to millions of dollars, which will simply add to an already critical farm situation," Dole said.

Dole said he and Curtis