



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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## TEXTILE TARIFF REDUCTIONS COULD SPELL DISASTER FOR COTTON FARMERS, DOLE SAYS

GREENWOOD, Miss. -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) charged today that the Carter Administration's recent announcement that reductions in tariffs on textiles may be negotiated at the Geneva trade talks "could spell disaster for cotton farmers in the South."

Dole spoke at a luncheon for the re-election of Rep. T.K. Moffett.

"Presently, we have bilateral quota agreements with 18 nations to control textile imports," Dole said. "If tariff reductions are negotiated at the multilateral trade talks, we could face the prospect of lower tariffs and increased competition from other textile-exporting nations. If that happens, the demand for domestic cotton for our mills could evaporate. And that's bad news for everyone in Mississippi."

Dole said that imported textiles have already resulted in the loss of domestic markets for over a million bales of American cotton.

"Farmers in Mississippi have enough trouble with Mother Nature," he said. "The Carter Administration shouldn't be compounding the problem by pursuing international trade policies that reduce the demand for Mississippi crops."

"Unfortunately, trade policy isn't the only misdirected policy of the Administration. The recent OSHA announcement on cotton dust control will cost the cotton industry over \$1.7 billion. And the drastic cut in funding for the cotton research lab in New Orleans and the \$11-million cut in Hatch formula funding for experiment stations also threaten cotton farmers and mills."