



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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SENATE PASSES DOLE HUMANE SLAUGHTER BILL

WASHINGTON -- The Senate today unanimously passed a bill by Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) that would require all slaughtering conducted under federal and state inspection to be done following humane methods. The bill would also pertain to foreign countries certified to export meat to the United States. Sen. Edward Brooke (R-Mass.) was a cosponsor of the bill (S. 3092).

The new "humane slaughter" bill seeks to amend the Federal Meat Inspection Act to extend the requirements of the Humane Slaughter Act of 1958, which applied only to livestock slaughtered for sale to the federal government.

The Dole bill requires that animals be rendered insensible to pain by a single blow or gunshot, or by electrical, chemical or other means that is rapid and effective, before being shackled and hoisted, thrown or cut.

The bill restates the 1958 act's exemption of ritual slaughter in order to protect the free exercise of religion.

Dole said that when the act was passed 20 years ago, there was some opposition from slaughterers. But since then, he said, they have found that the use of humane methods promotes efficient production, cuts losses of meat through reduced bruising of carcasses and increases the safety of slaughterhouse employees.

"Economic considerations are not the only impetus for this bill," Dole said. "Our national morality and concern for other living creatures demand legislation to prevent needless suffering by the animals that provide such an important part of our food supply. In the hearings, and in the development of S. 3092, it has been made clear that not only slaughter, but pre-slaughter handling of livestock, must be conducted humanely from the time the animal arrives at the slaughter plant until the final stunning."

The bill now goes on to the House.