



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE SAYS TRADE EXPANSION BILL WILL HELP IMPROVE FARMERS' ECONOMIC STATUS

LAWTON, Okla. -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that the Agricultural Export Trade Expansion Bill passed yesterday by the Senate "will help developing nations to meet their expanding food needs, and it will help U.S. farmers to improve their incomes by removing surplus commodities from U.S. markets."

The bill contains five major provisions to maintain and expand farm export markets. It is intended to give added stimulus to export sales of U.S. farm commodities that currently total some \$26 billion annually.

The bill grew out of separate legislation introduced earlier in this session of Congress by Dole and Sens. Dick Clark (D-Iowa), Richard G. Lugar (R-Ind.), Adlai E. Stevenson (D-Ill.) and the late Hubert Humphrey of Minnesota.

Dole said the measure would raise farm incomes, reduce our balance of trade deficit, create jobs, strengthen the dollar abroad and reduce government support payments to farmers.

Accepted in the bill was an amendment by Dole to boost "Food for Peace" exports. The amendment mandates a minimum annual level of "Food for Peace" exports of seven million metric tons -- a sizeable increase over the current program level of about five million metric tons per year. The program involves concessionary sales and donations of U.S. farm commodities to developing nations suffering food shortages.

In other remarks, Dole said America's economic picture must brighten, or the American farmer will face continued suffering.

"America must change the direction of her economic policy now or face further economic disaster at home and abroad," he said. "Our economic policies are slowly destroying the American farmer and the family farm way of life."

"American farmers face continued unacceptably high interest rates, double-digit inflation, crop surpluses, rising consumer prices and consumer resistance to higher food prices, unless America moves in a new direction."

Dole spoke at a Scotty Robb for Congress breakfast.