



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 18, 1978

CONTACT: Stu Hardy

DOLE URGES EPA TO ENFORCE NEW PESTICIDE LAW WITH "DISCRETION, COMMON SENSE"

WASHINGTON, D.C., September 18Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan) today urged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to enforce newly-enacted pesticide legislation with "discretion and common sense." Dole, ranking Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee, said he will be "closely monitoring the EPA's performance to determine if the new law is being sensibly administered."

Dole's remarks came during final Senate consideration of the "Conference Report" on S. 1678 -- The Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act Amendment of 1978." Dole praised the bill as "a major step toward streamlining the pesticide program and assuring a more equitable balance between the competing claims of a safe environment and the need for effective pest control.

The Kansas Republican, however, pointed out that "even the best laws require sound administration. Much still depends on the ability and the willingness of EPA to implement the law in the manner Congress intended." According to Dole, "the need to assure an adequate supply of effective pesticides for food production has been jeopardized, in the past, by bureaucratic footdragging and excessive paperwork requirements in the pesticide program."

The bill contains six major provisions aimed at streamlining the EPA's pesticide program. They are:

- The authorization of a "generic" approach to product registration which will permit a shortened registration procedure for new products which are similar to previously registered products.
- The authorization of conditional registration of products so that needed pesticides may be put on the market before all of the volumes of data needed for complete registration have been generated and submitted to EPA.
- The deletion of many of the time-consuming registration requirements relating to "efficacy" or product effectiveness.
- The granting of primary enforcement responsibility against violators to the States rather than EPA.
- The granting of more authority to the States in respect to State registration of pesticide products needed for local pest control problems.
- The easing of prohibitions against the use of a pesticide product in a manner inconsistent with its label.

Dole said that he expects President Carter to sign the new legislation later this month.