

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR INFORMATION CONT
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GRAIN EMBARGOED TO BOOST CARTER'S POLITICAL IMAGE

Washington, D.C.....Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan) said today President Carter's grain embargo against the Soviet Union was done primarily to boost Carter's sagging political image rather than for national security or defense reasons.

Dole, a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, said Monday he was pleased the committee was holding hearings on measures to ease the economic impact of the Soviet Grain suspension. Dole said, "The embargo also signals a major reversal of American farm policy of the past several years that will put the government back into the grain business in a substantial way but will have only minor impact on the Soviet economy. We don't have much of a free market anymore."

"President Carter's decision back in January cannot be explained except in terms of a decision he felt would improve his own political position."

Dole said, "Although I believe the decision of the embargo was taken for domestic political reasons, there is no doubt that a failed foreign policy led to the decision. Farmers should realize the embargo was the result of a lack of cohesiveness and credibility of the Carter foreign policy."

"Farmers should not have to pay the total price for the lack of leadership and three years of drifting foreign policy which led to the crisis in Iran, and helped spark the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan."

"I believe the action by President Carter in imposing a grain embargo on Russia was irresponsible. It was one of the worst economic decisionsever made by the U.S. government."

"I personally believe the actions taken by the Carter Administration are insufficient to protect the American farmer from the adverse effect of the President's embargo. Action is needed now by the Congress."