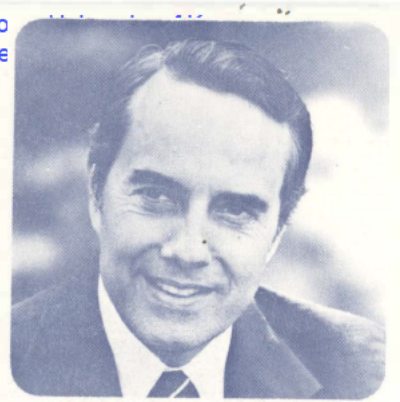


News from Senator BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE SAYS MIDWEST MAY BE PRESIDENTIAL BATTLEGROUND

CHICAGO -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today that the Midwest could prove to be the real battleground between Governor Reagan and President Carter.

Dole, speaking before the Republican Presidential Unity Reception here, said, "Farmers in the Midwest are concerned and frustrated with the Carter Administration's farm policy. With the farm economy in a depression, the Carter campaign will be on the defensive. This should provide a real opportunity for Governor Reagan.

"I believe Governor Reagan can make deep inroads into the farm and agri-business community in the wheat and corn belts. His policies of a free enterprise agricultural economy based on a minimum of government intervention will appeal to farmers who are sick and tired of roller coaster farm programs and grain embargoes.

Introduces Anti-Embargo Legislation

"Today in the Senate I introduced legislation that would rescind the Soviet grain embargo. It is clear that the embargo is falling apart, with news today that the Administration may be willing to bend their policy to allow some sales. Yet we have put our farmers and exporters in a straitjacket, while all the other exporting nations apparently are free to sell.

"I have opposed such embargoes for years. American farmers have suffered financially as a result of most embargoes, but the results of this one go even deeper. The U.S. balance of payments have been hurt along with the value of the dollar, and the taxpayers have had to pick up almost \$3 billion in extra government costs. Unfortunately, these costs have hurt us more than they've hurt the Soviets. They have shown they can replace much of the grain by buying in the international markets.

"On Jan. 5, in Des Moines, Iowa, I said that by instituting the embargo President Carter took a poke at the Soviet bear and instead knocked out the American farmer. I called upon the President then, and I call on Congress now to rescind this ill-advised embargo."