

BOB DOLE



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MAJOR FARM LEGISLATION PASSED TODAY WOULD MITIGATE ADVERSE IMPACT OF EMBARGO

WASHINGTON -- The Senate today adopted a major piece of farm legislation offered by Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) which is designed to offset the adverse impact of President Carter's grain embargo of the Soviet Union. The legislation would raise loan rates on wheat, corn and soybeans; alter set-aside dates for wheat and corn; and set up a humanitarian food reserve. The package was adopted unanimously as an amendment to the Child Nutrition Act Amendments bill.

"We have waited for several months for a bill to come before the Senate that would mitigate the effects of the grain embargo," Dole said. "That bill, S. 2639, which was passed by the Senate Agriculture Committee on March 29, has been blocked by Democratic senators each time we have tried to bring it to the floor of the Senate. But today I led an effort by farm state senators to offer the bill as an amendment to this nutrition legislation, as it became clear that we could no longer wait for the Democratic leadership to act."

The legislation passed today would:

1. Raise regular loan rates on wheat from \$2.50 to \$3.00, raise corn loan rates from \$2.10 to \$2.25, and raise soybean loans from \$4.50 to \$5.02.
2. Set up a new special loan rate on grain going into the farmer-held reserve. Wheat going into the farmer-held reserve would carry a loan rate of \$3.30 per bushel. Corn in the farmer-held reserve would have a loan rate of \$2.40 per bushel.
3. Change the date set-asides for corn and wheat would have to be announced by the secretary of agriculture. Wheat set-asides would have to be announced by Aug. 1, and corn set-asides by Nov. 1.
4. Set up a humanitarian food reserve of four million metric tons of wheat. The wheat for the reserve has already been purchased by USDA as part of their program to buy the grain that was embargoed. The reserve could only be replenished by appropriations from Congress.

"Major farm legislation has been needed ever since President Carter enacted the grain embargo," Dole said. "I hope we can rectify most of the adverse impact the embargo has had by having Congress adopt this legislation."