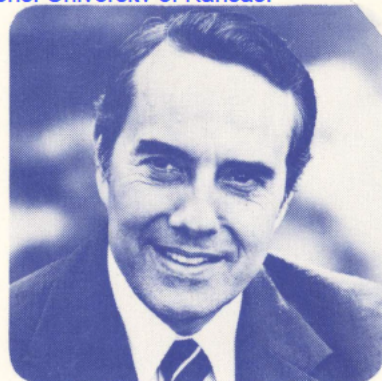


News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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REAL NET FARM INCOME COULD DROP 40% IN 1980

RUSSELL, KANSAS.....Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan) said today the new net farm income figures released by the Department of Agriculture do not tell the whole story and that USDA has been reluctant to tell farmers what is really happening."

"We have known for months farm income would be down severely in 1980. The USDA does not want to admit to the true picture. Most farm economists believe, when you adjust for inflation, real net farm income could be down as much as 40% in 1980. The USDA has been engaged in a cover-up of what is happening to farm income."

Dole stated, "The USDA predicts farm income will be down 25% or more this year but they want to forget that farmers are facing double digit inflation which erodes the value of what net income they have left.

"I believe USDA should be straight-forward with farmers and the nation and tell what really is happening. The true story is that this is a terrible year for farmers. Most farmers will face a real net farm income decline of from 30% to 50% depending on the crops they raise and weather conditions. The real problem is not just the weather as USDA stated. The real problem is caused by the farm and economic policies of the Carter Administration. Double-digit inflation, double-digit interest rates, low grain prices, and the grain embargo are more than farmers can handle in one year," the Kansas senator said.

"The bottom line is that four years of the Carter Administration have brought farmers and ranchers to the brink of disaster and the hardest times they have known since the Great Depression," Dole said.