

NEWS RELEASE!

Senator Bob Dole

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CARTER DISTORTS AGRICULTURE SITUATION, DOLE SAYS

ARKANSAS CITY, Kan. -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said today, "President Carter totally distorted the facts of the economic conditions faced by American farmers in his farm speech today in Toledo."

Dole, a senior member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, added that "the President blatantly ignored reality when he implied that the farm economy is in great shape and that farmers have had four good years under his Administration.

"Just the opposite is true. Thousands of farmers have been forced into bankruptcy the past four years, and net farm income, when adjusted for inflation, will be down 30 to 40 percent this year. Clearly stated, net farm income will be lower than in any year since the Depression.

"When the President talked about the farm records set during his Administration, he forgot to mention inflation rates, interest rates and cost of production increases, all of which have hit new highs under the leadership of Jimmy Carter. The farmer's cost of doing business has skyrocketed this year.

"Farmers in this country will not be fooled by any last-minute attempts by the President to defend his agricultural record. Farmers know who has mismanaged the affairs of American farmers; they know who is responsible for increased production costs. They know the number one problem facing the farmer today is Jimmy Carter.

"I have talked to Governor Reagan about farm policy. He is committed to restoring health and vitality to the family farm. He is committed to bringing profit back into agriculture. He stands strongly against the Soviet grain embargo.

"The record is clear -- Jimmy Carter has failed the farmer."

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