

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: BOB WAITE
(202) 224-8953

JOHN BLOCK WOULD BE BEST CHOICE AS SEC. OF AGRICULTURE, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kansas) today formally endorsed Illinois Director of Agriculture John R. Block for the position of U.S. Secretary of Agriculture.

"I am convinced that John Block would do a superior job as Secretary of Agriculture, and I plan to recommend him to President-elect Ronald Reagan," said Dole. "Mr. Block is a new, refreshing face on the scene. He has no binding ties to any one farm group or interest group and is himself a producer-farmer. The news of his possible nomination for this position has been well received by a good cross-section of farm groups. Finally, his tenure as Director of Agriculture in the state of Illinois has been outstanding, and I'm convinced he would be equally outstanding as Secretary of Agriculture."

Signal to the Farmer

Senator Dole, who is a senior member of the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee, co-hosted a meeting between Mr. Block and 12 prominent Senate Republicans in Senator Charles Percy's office this past Monday. Mr. Block also met privately with Senator Jesse Helms, who is expected to be a Chairman of the Agriculture Committee when Congress convenes in January.

"The nomination of John Block to this post would send an immediate signal to the American farmer that this new Administration is interested in restoring profitability to farming. It would give our farm families hope -- something they've had precious little of during the past four years," Dole said.

Mr. Block, 45, owns and operates the family farm near Galesburg, Illinois. He is a 1957 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.