

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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IMPRISONED FARMER WAYNE CRYTS TO TESTIFY BEFORE DOLE JUDICIARY SUBCOMMITTEE

WASHINGTON -- In the wake of increasing national attention on the inequities of current grain elevator bankruptcy law, Senator Robert Dole (R.-Kan.) announced today that imprisoned Missouri farmer Wayne Cryts will testify tomorrow before the Senate Subcommittee on Courts.

Cryts of Puxico, Missouri was released from a Little Rock jail this weekend upon the request of Senator Dole for the purposes of testifying in Washington before the senate committee. Federal Judge Charles Baker authorized Cryts' release.

Cryts will appear before the Senate Subcommittee on Courts on Tuesday, May 18, 1982 at 10am. The hearing will be conducted in the Senate Finance Committee Hearing Room, 2221 Dirksen Senate Office Building. Also scheduled to appear as a witness is Representative Bill Emerson (R.-Mo.).

Cryts has been jailed since April for refusing to tell a federal court the names of farmers who helped him remove stored soybeans from a bankrupt grain elevator in Ristine, Missouri. Cryts' imprisonment has drawn national attention to the uncertainties and financial hardships farmers face when their crop becomes locked-up in protracted grain elevator bankruptcy proceedings. The Senate has already passed a comprehensive bill authored by Senator Dole that overhauls existing grain elevator bankruptcy law. However that measure has been bogged-down on the House side for more than a year.

"I do not condone the breaking of any law, nor do I wish to glorify those who would defy a court order. But those questions are not at issue in this scheduled hearing. I believe the Cryts story relates directly to legislation I have introduced--legislation that could very well prevent future tragic instances of this nature. I feel it is in the best interest of Congress and all other interested parties to hear the full Cryts story." Dole said.