

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE CALLS FOR QUICK AND CLEAN DEMOCRAT HOUSE ACTION ON FARM BILL
"NO TIME TO HAGGLE OVER NICKELS AND DIMES"

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today repeated his call for quick action by House Democrats on legislation to improve the 1984 wheat program, expand funding for exports, and set major provisions for the 1985 wheat, feed grains, cotton and rice programs.

"This bill provides needed improvement in farm programs and has been discussed to death for over a year," Dole said. "The Democratic majority in the House may have time to haggle over this nickel or that dime, but farmers in Kansas and in other states want action, not more rhetoric from Washington. We can't give in to greed. What we already have in place is a responsible improvement package that makes sense for the farmer as well as the government."

Dole's comments followed a decision by the Democratic members of the House Agriculture Committee to request a Conference with the Senate over differences between their respective farm bills. The quicker alternative would have been to recommend passage of the Senate bill with no changes.

The Senate bill sets improved conditions for the 1984 wheat program, including a 10% paid land diversion, and ties down 1985 program conditions in advance of their announcement and sign-up periods. It also adds \$2.1 billion in export financing assistance in 1984 and 1985. The House legislation, known as the Foley wheat bill, passed the House of Representatives last November. It contains similar provisions for wheat, but does not include target price and diversion changes for other crops or any funding for exports.

"The House should put politics aside for just one week and pass the improved version approved by the Senate," Dole stated. "We had enough trouble with obstructionist Democrats in the Senate in the last eight months, and I hope the House does not decide to tie farmers up again by asking for things they don't want."