

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JULY 19, 1984

CONTACT: WALT RIKER,
SCOTT RICHARDSON 202/224-6521

DOLE ASKS AGRICULTURE FOR INCREASED PRESSURE ON CONGRESS TO REDUCE DEFICITS

GREAT BEND, KANSAS -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today called on American farmers and ranchers to redouble their pressure on Congress to reduce soaring federal budget deficits.

"American agriculture has the most to gain if we can get the deficit kettle really boiling," Dole said, "and the most to lose if we let things just simmer along."

Dole's remarks came during an address to the Kansas Livestock Association. The organization, like its national representative, the National Cattleman's Association, has targeted deficit reduction as its number one legislative priority.

"We need more organizations and groups in agriculture and in agriculture-related industries to speak up against business-as-usual spending and political trade-offs by Congress," Dole stated. "Playing that game doesn't take much talent and it doesn't take any political courage. You just go along to get along."

"We have passed the point where posturing about deficits and then finding excuses for ducking tough decisions can be tolerated -- and Kansas members of Congress are no exception. This year there already has been a major test vote for Congressmen who are really serious about deficit reduction. Before summer adjournment, the House and Senate voted to approve the President's \$140 billion plus deficit reduction downpayment package. The Kansas delegation was not unanimous in its vote for the package," Dole said.

"It's time for farmers and ranchers to take a really close look at voting records to see who is backing up their interest in deficit reduction and who is backing away."