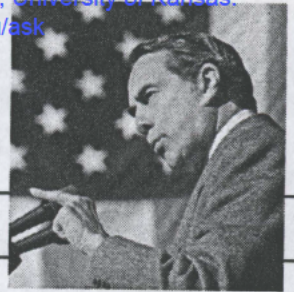


Bob Dole



NEWS

U.S. SENATOR FOR KANSAS

FROM:

SENATE MAJORITY LEADER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, February 2, 1996

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FARM BILL

REPUBLICANS FIGHTING FOR AMERICA'S FARMERS, **WHILE DEMOCRATS STALL FARM BILL**

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole today issued the following statement regarding delaying tactics by Senate Democrats that have stalled action on the farm bill:

"Every five years, the Democrats play the same game with the future of rural America. So, it should come as no surprise that the Democrats are once again playing politics with the American farmer. Yesterday, when Republicans tried to keep faith with our commitment to rural America, Senate Democrats blocked a farm program which enjoys majority support in Congress and which has been endorsed overwhelmingly by every major agricultural commodity group.

"Despite their bumper crop of pro-farm rhetoric, the Democrats' stalling tactics are no comfort to American farm country. The Democrats will have another chance next Tuesday to pull the plug on their misguided farm bill filibuster.

"This isn't the first time the Democrats put politics ahead of the American farmer. President Clinton vetoed a common sense seven-year farm program when he vetoed the balanced budget.

"Republicans are fighting to give farmers the certainty, the simplicity, and the flexibility they are demanding. In the past year, the Congressional agriculture committees heard the voices of rural America in 33 hearings featuring more than 350 witnesses. Also last year, a solid bipartisan majority overwhelmingly rejected a Democrat alternative farm plan proposed by Senator Harkin. It's clear that farmers want to plant for the market and not the government. It's high time we gave them that opportunity."

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