



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole testified Friday morning before a Committee of the House of Representatives to urge better representation of consumers in the Federal government. Dole expressed reservations about certain provisions in the House version of the Consumer Protection bill. The Government Operations Committee also heard Dole emphasize the importance of his farm exemption amendment which the Senate adopted 55-34 during its debate on the bill several weeks ago.

"I feel strongly that consumers need to be better represented in Federal programs," Dole said, "and the bill is intended to accomplish this. However improvements should be made to ensure that the new consumer agency would not simply add another layer of government or result in unnecessary burdens on private enterprise."

Dole said the most important vote in the Senate may be yet to come if the President should veto the bill. Because of a possible veto, the Kansas Senator urged the Committee members to "carefully consider the major provisions adopted in the Senate," including the Dole farm exemption. Dole defended the farm exemption saying, "On many occasions in the past, Government interventions prompted by well-intentioned consumer-oriented efforts have had a detrimental impact on agriculture." He named the soybean embargo of 1973, the export restrictions last year, the beef price freeze of 1973 and the grain dumping of the early 1960's as examples. Dole said the consumer agency would not be barred "from acting on what is the greatest factor in the consumer's food budget -- the food costs related to operations after commodities leave the farm."

Congressman Jack Brooks (D-Tex) said the Committee would consider incorporating the Senator's changes in their bill which the Committee hopes to bring before the House before the scheduled August recess.