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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, JUNE 26, 1975

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SENATE ACCEPTS DOLE PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE IN OLDER AMERICAN ACT

Washington, D.C. -- The Senate acted Thursday to ensure the continuation of food and nutrition programs for Kansas elderly under the Older Americans Act.

Prior to passage of the bill S. 1425, the Senate approved an admendment by Senator Bob Dole to meet what Dole described as "a unique situation which exists in Kansas."

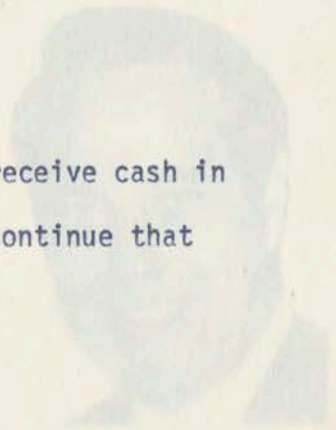
Older Americans nutrition programs are routinely supplied with donated commodities from the government. Last year, with the encouragement of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Kansas dismantled its commodity distribution program, expecting that all nutrition and feeding programs could receive federal assistance in cash in lieu of commodities.

The anticipated change in policy to encourage other states to do as Kansas has done never materialized. As a result, Kansas is the sole state without a commodity distribution program. Dole's admendment is intended to maintain Kansas participation in the Older American nutrition programs on an equitable basis with other states by empowering Kansas to receive cash in lieu of commodities. The cash it would receive would enable it to buy an amount of food for these programs that would be the equivalent of what they would receive in commodities. Federal assistance to Kansas under this cash in lieu of commodities concept is expected to be at a rate of 25 cents per meal. Without Dole's admendment, there would have been no mechanism for receipt of that Federal support. Kansas nutrition programs for children are already authorized to receive cash in lieu of commodities under last year's legislation, and legislation to continue that authority has been approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee.

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SENATE ACCEPTS DOLE PROGRAM FOR CHANGE IN OTHER NUTRITION ACT

Washington, D.C. -- The Senate acted Thursday to ensure the continuation of food and nutrition programs for Kansas children under the Older Americans Act.

Prior to passage of the bill S. 1425, the Senate approved an amendment by Senator Bob Dole to read what Dole described as "a unique situation which exists in Kansas."

Older American nutrition programs are routinely supplied with donated commodities from the government. Last year, with the agreement of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Kansas diversified its commodity distribution program, providing that all nutrition and feeding programs could receive federal assistance in cash in lieu of commodities.

The anticipated change in policy to encourage other states to do as Kansas has done was authorized. As a result, Kansas is the only state without a commodity distribution program. Dole's amendment is intended to maintain Kansas participation in federal nutrition programs on an equitable basis with other states by authorizing Kansas to receive cash in lieu of commodities. The cash is worth roughly what it would cost to buy an amount of food for those programs that would be the equivalent of what they would receive in commodities. Federal assistance to these programs is authorized to what they would receive in commodities. Federal assistance to Kansas under this cash in lieu of commodities program is expected to be at a rate of 12 cents per pound, the same as the rate for other states. Dole's amendment would allow Kansas to receive cash in lieu of commodities under last year's legislation, and legislation to continue that authority has been approved by the Senate Agriculture Committee.