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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE SAYS LONGSHOREMEN ACTION ILLEGAL

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole today stated that the refusal by the International Longshoremen's Association to load grain destined for shipment to the Soviet Union may amount to a violation of law subject to injunctive relief and monetary damages under the National Labor Relations Act.

"Because such an action is not directed against their own employers -- stevedoring companies -- but rather against a chain of private grain dealers with no ability to resolve their grievances, the situation has all the elements of an illegal secondary boycott," Dole suggested.

Under the National Labor Relations Act, once a secondary boycott complaint is filed, the National Labor Relations Board becomes the prosecutor and is obligated to investigate the case and seek a court injunction. If a judge then determines that there is reasonable cause to believe that a violation has occurred, he would grant the injunction -- thereby forcing dock workers to cease their boycott and resume loading.

"I don't see how we can ever have a smooth flow of commerce if a critical link in the chain -- i.e., those who load the ships -- can selectively decide what and how much of any product is going where and to whom. I wonder how George Meany would feel if American farmers boycotted all AFL-CIO products until they receive an assurance that new union wage settlements would not increase the prices of vehicles and equipment which they themselves purchase?"

"The 'protection of American consumers' gimmick is a facade," Dole remarked, "because the delivery of everything sold to date wouldn't raise the price of a loaf of bread two cents. If we contracted to sell 15 million tons of union-built automobiles to the Russians, they couldn't get them on the ships fast enough."