



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE SEES GOOD NEWS, BAD NEWS IN WHITE HOUSE GRAIN ANNOUNCEMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today applauded the White House announcement that a team is being sent to Moscow to attempt to negotiate an annual series of grain sales to the Soviet Union. This is similar to a plan Dole proposed in a Senate resolution last week. The Senator was quick to add his criticism of apparent continued submission to what he termed labor-leader George Meany's "ego problems."

Dole said, "Grain sales to the USSR of approximately the same size every year -- if they can be negotiated -- would stabilize prices and reduce confusion over their alleged inflationary impact on consumer food prices. At the same time we will retain all the benefits to farmers, taxpayers, balance of payments and others involved in selling and shipping grain. That is what my Resolution last week envisioned, and this announcement should be a great step in the right direction.

"It's still astounding to me that a private citizen should be able to exercise such arbitrary authority over the trade and foreign policy of this country," Dole said, referring to Meany's previous intransigence on the subject. "Meany's misguided meddling has held up the grain shipments."

"Even now," Dole adds, "further negotiations with the Soviet Union are being delayed, we are told, until the middle of October at the earliest. In effect, it seems, any further negotiating, any further progress of any kind must simply await the pleasure of labor czar Meany."

"Putting these seamier aspects of the situation aside -- I think perhaps the President has done the best that could be done given Meany's ego problems," Dole says, "the White House is on precisely the right track in sending a negotiating team to Moscow to try to work out a long term trading agreement with the Soviets."