



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521

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CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1975

## DOLE QUESTIONS AUTHORITY FOR GRAIN EMBARGO

WASHINGTON, D.C.--"Farmers of this nation are being suspended like a puppet on a string with the Administration's on-again -- off-again export controls on agricultural commodities," Senator Bob Dole said today. Dole, ranking Republican on the Agriculture Committee, called for early Committee hearings, with appropriate witnesses from the Departments of Agriculture and State, to explore extension of the wheat sales embargo to eastern European countries.

In telegrams to Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz and Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, Dole questioned the authority under which the moratorium was extended to eastern European countries. Dole asked Kissinger "when export controls on grain sales became the prerogative of the State Department." He also asked the Secretary of State to cite the "authority under which the State Department is acting to set grain export policy."

"I have been advised USDA knew nothing of embargo action," Dole wired Butz, "and would like to know why USDA has relinquished responsibility for grain export policy provided under the Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973."

"It is imperative that any monitoring or action regarding agricultural exports be restored to the responsibility of the Department of Agriculture where it legally resides," Dole said. Earlier this week, Dole and Agriculture Committee Chairman Herman Talmadge sent President Ford a letter questioning USDA's lack of involvement in long-term grain export negotiations being conducted in Moscow. "It is most apparent that the State Department has usurped the responsibility of the Agriculture Department in regard to export sales of agricultural commodities," Dole concluded today.