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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE, TALMADGE REQUEST ADDITIONAL \$3.3 MILLION FUNDING FOR FGIS SUPERVISORY DUTIES

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senators Bob Dole and Herman Talmadge today requested an additional \$3.3 million in appropriations for the Federal Grain Inspection Service for the balance of this fiscal year, to finance supervision of licensed inspection and weighing personnel. The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Senate Agriculture Committee made the request in a letter to Senator Thomas Eagleton, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Agriculture and Related Agencies, Senate Committee on Appropriations.

Following is a full text of the letter to Eagleton:

We are writing to seek your consideration of an additional \$3.3 million for the Federal Grain Inspection Service for the Balance of this fiscal year to finance supervision of licensed inspection and weighing personnel.

In the next few weeks, your subcommittee will be considering a supplemental appropriations request for this agency for implementation of the United States Grain Standards Act of 1976. This landmark act provides for sweeping change in the grading and weighing of grain. The cornerstone to the Act is the greatly intensified Federal role in insuring accuracy of grades and weights.

As well may be expected with legislation of this size and complexity, the initial implementation of the Act has given rise to several points of controversy. The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry has already held hearings and is considering legislation to remedy the problems that have come to our attention. The issue with respect to the immediate imposition of fees for the funding of supervision of licensed inspection and weighing agencies is, however, a matter outside this committee's direct jurisdiction.

The training of qualified supervisors takes anywhere from two to three years and despite funds provided previously and the \$8 million requested in the supplemental, the FGIS will not have an adequate complement of trained personnel to provide the full supervision of licensed agencies contemplated in the Act.

Collection of the fees would be unfair until the agency was providing the full supervision service specified in the Act. We are therefore requesting that an additional \$3.3 million be appropriated to capitalize the revolving fund so that the FGIS can defer the imposition of supervision fees while proceeding with the orderly implementation of the Act.

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