



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE REPORTS TWO BILLS; AGREES TO ACT ON GRAIN INSPECTION NEXT WEEK

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole, ranking Republican on the Agriculture Committee, said the committee has completed work on two bills and reported them for consideration by the full Senate. Dole said he is hopeful the committee will report a third -- his own bill to amend the Grain Standards Act of 1976 -- next week.

At Dole's urging, the committee agreed to take up the grain inspection bill -- avoiding possible lengthy delay due to Department of Agriculture opposition to the bill. In a letter to the committee, Secretary Bob Bergland expressed disapproval of the bill, which would prevent federal supervisory fees from being imposed on farmers. In 1977, the fees will be about \$500,000. Dole pointed out to committee members that the Kansas legislature adjourns in April and resolution before that time of current grain inspection law problems is imperative.

Dole's bill would: 1) repeal user fees for supervision of grain inspection; 2) exempt country elevators from the 5 year record keeping requirement and minimize those records required at terminal and export elevators; 3) create an advisory committee to assist the Administrator of the Federal Grain Inspection System in implementation of other provisions of the Grain Standards Act of 1976.

The Agriculture Committee approved for full Senate action the Land and Water Resources Conservation Act which would provide funding for soil conservation districts to develop state plan for the future utilization of land and water for agricultural purposes.

The Committee also approved the so-called "graze-out" bill which would allow a farmer to use up to 40% of his allotted wheat acreage for pasture or hay. In return, the farmer would receive a payment of \$1 per bushel for the established average yield of those acres. The purpose of the bill is to prevent further build-up of wheat surpluses and would be in effect only during 1977. Congressman Keith Sebelius (1st Dist.) has sponsored the same proposal in the House of Representatives.