



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

FOR RELEASE: 10:30 a.m., Friday, May 20, 1977

DOLE WILL OPPOSE CONSUMER ADVOCACY AGENCY IN THIS CONGRESS

Chicago -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said Friday that the federal Agency for Consumer Advocacy is "an idea whose time has come and gone."

Dole supported the compromise bill for a consumer protection agency that passed the Senate two years ago. He sponsored the "agricultural exemption" which eliminated farm products from the agency's jurisdiction. A similar measure cleared the House later but not by a large enough margin to override the expected presidential veto, and it was never sent to the White House.

By now the federal government is more responsive to the interests of consumers, Dole said. He pointed out that most existing agencies already have an office of consumer affairs headed by a consumer activist. More congressional staff time is devoted to helping constituent-consumers gain access to federal agencies than in the past, the senator said.

He said it seemed unnecessary, therefore, to add another layer of bureaucracy.

ILLOGICAL TO REQUEST NEW AGENCY NOW

Dole addressed the annual sales and marketing conference of the International Foodservice Manufacturers' Assn. meeting at the Continental Plaza Hotel. The organization is made up of manufacturers and processors of food for the institutional market.

The 1976 Republican vice-presidential nominee said it was illogical for President Carter to be calling for the creation of a new agency at the same time his administration has been stressing the need for reorganization of the executive branch and reduction of the number of departments, bureaus, and agencies.

He told the foodservice manufacturers that the public is demanding more information about the nutritional value of food -- and more attention to preventive health care in place of the more expensive curative measures.

Doel predicted that nutritional concerns will become an important aspect of health and agricultural policy evaluations. "Food policies and programs must be measured first and foremost by the degree to which they contribute to the nation's nutritional health," he said. The senator recommended the opening of a dialogue between agriculture and health officials so that dietary information can be utilized in the formulation of production and marketing decisions.

"If the American people are given adequate information about the food they eat and the products they buy, they are smart enough to act sensibly, without the intrusion of still more heavy-handed regulators," he said.