



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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

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SENATE FARM BILL COULD MEAN ALMOST \$100 MILLION MORE FOR KANSAS WHEAT FARMERS, DOLE SAYS

WASHINGTON -- The higher target prices for wheat contained in the Senate-passed farm bill could mean an additional \$100 million this year for Kansas wheat producers, Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) said Saturday.

Dole made the estimate in a letter to Rep. Thomas S. Foley (D-Wash.), requesting that the House Agriculture Committee, of which Foley is chairman, reconsider its commitment to the price level endorsed by the Carter Administration.

The bill pending in the House committee would set target prices for this year's wheat crop at \$2.65 a bushel -- the figure that President Carter indicated is the highest he would accept. The difference between that price and the \$2.90 a bushel already approved by the Senate would be nearly \$100 million in Kansas alone, Dole noted.

"That money is needed in the Wheat Belt this year," the senator said.

SENATE TARGET \$3.10 NEXT YEAR

The target price for wheat in the current law is \$2.47. The bill passed by the Senate and sent to the House would raise the target to \$3.10 next year. Action has not yet been completed by the House committee, but on a previous vote the committee recommended \$2.65 this year and \$2.90 next year.

In his letter to Foley, Dole called for rapid action by the committee that the House can clear its version of the farm bill shortly after the Memorial Day recess.

A conference committee of the two houses would then meet in an effort to reconcile the differences before the final measure is sent to the White House.

Dole said Saturday that Mr. Carter pledged during last Fall's campaign to support target prices equal to the cost of production. Campaigning in Kansas, Vice President Walter F. Mondale came out for a minimum \$3 target price for wheat, the senator recalled. "Given these price statements, it would seem the Administration would be hard-pressed not to sign the bill in the form that passed the Senate," Dole declared.

The letter to Foley:

"I am disturbed to hear that the farm bill may not come to the House floor before July. The farm situation needs to be addressed with a greater urgency than this. Farmers are going broke daily. Existing legislation does not adequately cover many current farm problems, especially the effects of slack market demand and falling farm prices.

I urge you to do what you can to speed up House action in order that new farm legislation may be realized at an early date. As you know, the Senate has completed action on the bill. The \$2.90 figure adopted in the Senate. If possible I would further urge your committee to reconsider its commitment to a \$2.65 level this year."

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