



NEWS ³⁶⁷ from
U.S. Senator
Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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SENATOR BOB DOLE SHOCKED BY ATTEMPTS TO SPLIT UP DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Washington, D.C..... Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan) today expressed shock, dismay and concern over attempts that are being made by various groups in Washington to split up the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Senator Dole, ranking minority member of the Senate Agriculture Committee, said he has received information that attempts are underway to split up the various functions of the Agriculture Department.

"If the efforts now underway are successful the Department will no longer be a major agency and I doubt if the Senate and House Agriculture Committee's could ever get another farm bill passed." the Kansas Senator stated.

"Farmers, rural citizens and rural communities all across this country need a strong voice in Washington. The U.S.D.A. is the only agency of government that gives proper priority to rural America and its needs. In this time of economic crisis on the farm we certainly don't need to muffle the voice of rural people," Dole said.

The Senator said Secretary of HEW Califano is attempting to have the food inspection functions and the nutrition programs transferred to HEW.

Secretary of Interior Andrus has made an obvious move to have the Forest Service and the Soil Conservation Service transferred from U.S.D.A. to his department. "This would certainly not be in the best interests of farmers and other rural citizens," Dole said.

The Kansas Senator said some Senators believe the food regulatory functions of the Department of Agriculture should be transferred to the Food and Drug Administration.

Dole said the President's welfare reform proposal will remove food stamps from the U.S.B.A. and combine them into a unified income maintenance program.

"I also keep hearing reports that the functions of the Farmers Home Administration might be transferred to a new agency."

"I do not believe these efforts are in the best interests of farmers and all rural America. I will work to stop the break-up of the U.S.D.A." Dole said.