



# NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 1979

CONTACT: BOB WAITE, BILL KATS  
(202) 224-8953 or 8947

## SENATOR DOLE INTRODUCES 1979 FARM BILL, S-1

WASHINGTON -- Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan.) today introduced the first bill in the 96th Session of the U.S. Senate, "The Food and Agriculture Act of 1979." The bill, which will be known as S-1, was introduced by Senator Dole for himself and Senator George McGovern (D-S.D.).

"I reserved Senate Bill 1 for this particular bill to express my concern for the plight of America's farmers," Dole said. "As this bill indicates, I intend to continue to place the farmers' needs at the forefront of my legislative activity."

In remarks prepared for the introduction of the bill, Dole said, "1978 was a tough year financially for our farmers. The farm problem has not gone away and will not go away quickly. Many farmers are still suffering severe financial losses and are bearing the major brunt of double-digit inflation.

"Without new farm legislation, American farmers could spend all of 1979 with their backs against the wall. We cannot refuse to raise farm prices under the banner of fighting inflation when farmers are losing money. This bill strikes a proper balance between the need for federal spending reductions and the obvious requirement for improvements in existing farm programs and farm income."

Principal features of the Dole-McGovern bill (S-1) are:

1. Variable Target Price Program: In years where there is a set-aside program, the secretary of agriculture is directed to set up a variable schedule of set-asides and target prices. The farmer can elect to obtain a higher target price for his crop by increasing the amount of cropland he sets aside, with the maximum target price being 100 percent of parity for the maximum set-aside.

2. Milk Price Support: The milk program would be continued at 80 percent of parity. The program is presently scheduled to expire March 31, 1979.

3. Sugar Price Support: This provision requires the secretary of agriculture to set the price support loan for sugar at a percentage of parity equal to 16.5 cents per pound raw sugar equivalent.

4. Food Stamp Program: This provision increases the appropriation authority for food stamp programs to keep pace with inflation and unemployment levels, and provides for fiscal and administrative reforms in the program to improve quality control and tighten up the possibility of error and fraud.

5. Public Law 480 Amendment: This provision establishes a P.L. 480 minimum quantity of seven million tons for each of the next three fiscal years to be shipped to underdeveloped countries under the Food for Peace Program. There is currently no minimum requirement and the program is not being used effectively.

6. National Agricultural Production Cost Board: The board would be made up of sixteen farm producers who would advise the secretary of agriculture on producer views in arriving at national cost-of-production figures for agricultural commodities. This would be a one-time, three-year board.