

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE CALLS FOR HEARINGS ON U.S.-U.S.S.R. GRAIN AGREEMENT

WASHINGTON, D.C.....Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kan) today called for hearings by the U.S. Senate Agriculture Committee on the U.S.-U.S.S.R. grain agreement.

In a letter to the chairman of the committee, Sen. Herman Talmadge, (D-Ga.) Dole said, "I believe it would be beneficial to our Committee and the farm community if the facts could be presented on the grain agreement, testimony could be taken on how the embargo provision of the 1977 farm bill works, and on the 1980 marketing year outlook for farm products."

Sen. Dole requested that hearings be held early in September.

Dole stated, "Many farmers and several farm organizations have contacted me in recent weeks expressing confusion and concern over the U.S.-U.S.S.R. grains agreement. Many feel the U.S. has been dragging its feet in increasing the grain that can be sold. Some feel the U.S. indirectly has an embargo in effect on grain sales to Russia, especially for feed grains."

"Some farmers feel the provision of the 1977 farm bill on embargoes and loan rates has been violated. Farmers feel wheat and corn markets are being held down by the present policies toward export sales."

In recent weeks Sen. Dole has called for increases in the grain agreement to allow the Soviets to buy more wheat and corn in the 1979 and 1980 marketing years.