

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 1981

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DOLE ANNOUNCES WITNESS LIST FOR FARM BANKRUPTCY HEARINGS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.), chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee subcommittee on courts, today announced a tentative witness list for the subcommittee hearings Monday, April 6, on reform of the federal Bankruptcy Code. The April 6 hearings will deal with protecting farmers' property tied up in elevator bankruptcy proceedings.

Those tentatively scheduled to provide testimony are:

- Senator John Danforth (R-Mo.)
- Secretary of Agriculture John Block
- Representative Bill Emerson (R-Mo.)
- Kansas Attorney General Robert Stephan
- Representative Dan Glickman (D-Kan.)

- Wally Dick, director, Iowa State Commerce Commission
- Don Watson, director, Kansas State Grain Inspection Office
- John Armstrong, president, Kansas Farm Bureau
- Thomas Hopkins, coordinator, Grain Regulatory Services Program, Missouri Division of Grain Inspection and Warehousing
- Dave Senter, Washington representative, American Agricultural Movement
- Larry Earl, director, Indiana Commodity Dealers Licensing Agency

Those not attending, but planning to submit written statements for the record, include Kansas Governor John Carlin; Charles Arthur, general counsel, Kansas Farm Bureau; and Gordon McCombre, director, Montana Department of Agriculture.

"This group should give us a good broad cross-section of American farm opinion on how to proceed when bankruptcies occur," Dole said. "A number of congressional bills have already been drafted which seek to address this problem. I will soon be introducing my own bill, which will amend the bankruptcy code and set down a schedule for determining the disposition of property. My main concern is that farmers are protected against severe economic loss due to the fraud and mismanagement that leads to storage elevator bankruptcies. The recent Ristine, Mo., bankruptcy illustrates the pressing need for legislation that will guide courts and farm creditors in this area. These hearings, which I will chair, will explore some of the options open to us."

Dole also said that the courts subcommittee will examine personal bankruptcies in separate hearings Friday, April 3. Both hearings will be held in the Senate Judiciary Committee hearing room, 2228 Dirksen Senate Office Building.