

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE-HELMS AMENDMENT RESTORES \$300 MILLION IN CHILD NUTRITION FUNDS

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R-Kan.), along with Senator Jesse Helms (R-N.C.), today introduced an amendment to the budget resolution on the Senate floor that restored \$300 million in previously cut child nutrition program funds.

The Dole-Helms amendment was passed in the full Senate by a vote of 87-9.

The amendment restored the \$300 million by taking \$200 million from foreign aid programs and transferring \$100 million from the P.L. 480 Food for Peace program.

"I think the senators who supported us on this vote agreed that the proposed Administration cuts in the child nutrition programs went too deep," Dole said. "Of a total operating budget of slightly over \$4 billion, we were being asked to cut over 40 percent -- about \$1.6 billion. This seemed to me to be a bit inequitable, since most programs are being cut back anywhere from 10 percent to 25 percent.

"The proposed cuts would have seriously damaged this program, undermining its viability and making it impossible for schools to run their program like a business.

"Although I am generally supportive of President Reagan's economic package, I did have reservations about these child nutrition cuts. Here in Congress, the package has had strong bipartisan support, because it is a program that stands on its own merits and has not been subject to the fraud and abuse that plagues certain other federal nutrition programs.

"The reason I deviated from the President's proposals on this particular point is that I sincerely believe that good nutrition for our children is one of the best investments this country can make in its future well-being. Since the early part of the Sixties, we have been firmly committed to eliminating hunger and malnutrition in our population, and I think that extensive cuts in the area of child nutrition would cause us to step backward on the path to progress that we have taken."