

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

2213 Dirksen Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: CATHY PILLION
(202) 224-6521

DOLE OPPOSED TO BUDGET-BUSTING HOUSE FARM BILL

WASHINGTON -- "The farm bill passed by the House of Representatives yesterday fails to meet either the President's budget guidelines or the limits set by Congress last spring," Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) stated today. "Since the House didn't do its job, it's up to the Senate to get the cost of the bill back in line during conference."

Dole's statement followed passage of the House version of legislation covering the price support programs for major agricultural commodities through Fiscal Year 1986. Estimates by the Department of Agriculture place the total cost of the House bill at \$16.6 billion, compared to a \$10.6 billion price tag for the measure passed by the Senate on September 18. The difference of \$6 billion includes increased expenditures for supports for feed grains (\$2.5 billion), wheat (\$1.65 billion), rice (\$697 million) and dairy (\$535 million).

"The Senate worked hard to pass a bill that would meet both the letter and the spirit of the President's economic recovery program while providing an essential level of price and income support for farmers," said Dole. "If we back down on our commitment to bring government spending under control for farm legislation, we'll be breaking the bank for every other program scheduled for budget cuts by the end of the year."

The House and Senate bills will now go to a joint House/Senate Conference Committee, which will meet in early November to settle differences and report a final version for passage by both chambers. Once approved, the legislation will go to the White House for consideration by President Reagan.

"The President has stated on several occasions that he will veto any budget-busting legislation passed by Congress," Dole added. "If we are serious in our conviction to help farmers, members of the conference will have to substantially revise the House bill to bring it into line with both the Senate and the Administration positions."