

News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



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## HOUSE MEMBERS VOTED RESPONSIBLY ON FARM BILL

WASHINGTON -- Senator Bob Dole (R.-Kan.) today cited the passage of the 1981 Farm Bill by the House of Representatives as a "responsible and necessary decision to assure continuity and stability to our agricultural sector."

Noting the 205 to 203 bipartisan vote, Dole recalled that, "I can't remember a farm bill that hasn't had trouble in the House of Representatives; you just can't satisfy every commodity and interest group." Dole continued, "A number of House members changed their vote and opposed the bill at the last minute to give it the appearance of a political cliff-hanger. This legislation is not perfect, but I've never seen a perfect farm bill. It is acceptable to most farmers and consumers, and is a bill the Administration can improve upon, if necessary, later on."

The Senate passed the Farm Bill Conference Report late last week by a 68 to 31 margin. The legislation now goes to President Reagan, who has indicated that he will sign the four-year measure into law. In addition to commodity price and income supports, the bill contains provisions covering conservation, research and the Food for Peace and food stamp programs.

"Considering the consequences of returning to permanent law," Dole said, "this bill will provide farmers an essential level of support and a clear picture of how agricultural programs will operate over the next four years." Dole concluded, "We can now focus our efforts on factors that make the difference in farm profitability: inflation, interest rates and maximizing export sales of agricultural products."