

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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LAST-MINUTE SENATE VICTORIES:

CONGRESS OKAYS DOLE'S SURPLUS FOOD GIVEAWAY AND EXTRA UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS
4,000 KANSANS TO GET TWO ADDITIONAL WEEKS OF COMPENSATION

WASHINGTON -- In the final minutes of legislative action before Congress adjourned for its summer recess, Kansas Senator Bob Dole late Thursday won a two-year extension of his emergency food giveaway program and also obtained extra benefits for the nation's unemployed.

"I am pleased that Congress' final act before the recess was the passage of this legislation that will mean so much to the unfortunate and disadvantaged of this nation," Dole said.

FOOD TO THE NEEDY

Dole's food bill, which was signed into law this March as part of the Jobs Bill, was scheduled to expire at the end of September. Under the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Act, federal stocks of flour, honey, rice, soybeans, cheese, dry milk and butter would be distributed to food banks and soup kitchens. Currently, the government pays about \$600,000 a day just to store those goods.

Included in the Dole measure is authorization for \$50 million to go to states for distribution and storage costs, with \$10 million of that figure earmarked for recipient agencies to help also offset storage and distribution costs.

"With almost \$4 billion of food sitting in storage, it would have been a cruel irony for millions of disadvantaged Americans if the emergency food program was allowed to expire," Dole said.

EXTRA UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

Senator Dole, as Chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, was the key figure in working out a compromise that restores unemployment benefits to states facing a loss of compensation due to a drop in unemployment rates.

"Even though there is recent good news about more Americans going back to work, there is still a long-term problem with the millions of Americans still unemployed, or still looking for work," Dole said. "I am pleased we could achieve a late, bipartisan agreement that will provide a cushion against the unwelcome effects of joblessness."

According to Dole, the provision means that as many as 4,000 Kansans who were receiving federal supplemental compensation in early June could be eligible for additional unemployment payments. The add-on benefits could affect an estimated 10,000 people in Massachusetts and 7,000 in North Carolina.