

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas) . SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

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CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-6521

DOLE RENEWS CALL FOR TARGET PRICE COMPROMISE

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today called on his Senate colleagues to "show some responsibility" by working out an acceptable compromise on target price freeze legislation.

"I can't believe that the opposition of one or two members will continue to prevent Congress from considering important farm legislation in 1983," said Senator Dole. "I know many Senators are ready, willing and able to move ahead and pass a bill that will satisfy most grain, cotton and dairy farmers, as well as the Administration."

Dole's comments came as Congress returned to Washington after the August recess to face a number of legislative issues left unresolved during the Summer session. The proposal to freeze target prices, first raised by the Administration in late 1982, would maintain the current 1983 levels for wheat, feed grains, cotton and rice for the 1984 and 1985 crops. The Administration has conditioned its support for the dairy compromise legislation worked out by Senate and House agriculture committee members on obtaining a vote on the target price issue. Both measures were prevented from being considered when a handful of Senators blocked the target price bill during the two weeks prior to the August recess.

"Just before recess, I worked out a compromise with the National Association of Wheat Growers that would have allowed target prices to increase to the scheduled 1984 levels by 1985 in two equal installments," Dole said. "The overall terms of the 1984 wheat program would have been more attractive than those now in effect, and the Kansas Wheat Growers endorsed the plan."

"I am hopeful that wheat producers in other states recognize the advantages of improving next year's program and can convince their representatives in Congress to act in their best interests on the target price question," said Dole, the senior Republican on the Senate Agriculture Committee.