

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 CALLS FOR WHEAT FARMER RESPONSE ON 1984 PROGRAM --

IMPROVED WHEAT COMPROMISE STALLED BY ONE SENATOR
"TIME TO GET OFF THE FENCE": STOP \$3 WHEAT

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today urged the nation's wheat producers to contact their representatives in Washington on the need to change the wheat program announced on August 9 for the 1984 crop.

"We've been trying to get action on an improved wheat program for three months," Dole said. "I believe most wheat producers support the package we've worked out. We need more grassroots input to get a better program in place before Congress adjourns next month."

"Wheat producers should realize that, unless the legislative process begins to move soon, we will just run out of time before the needed changes can be made," Dole continued. "Leaving the politics aside, any farmer who doesn't want to see \$3 wheat next July had better get involved by letting farm groups and officials in Washington know that it's time to get off the fence."

Dole's call came during the week-long Columbus Day recess, which ends when Congress returns on October 17. The first session of the 98th Congress is scheduled to end before Thanksgiving. Prior to the recess, the Kansas Senator had tried for the third time since July to offer a compromise bill to reduce the scheduled increases in target prices and substantially improve provisions for participation in the 1984 wheat program. The effort was thwarted by the continuing refusal of one Senator -- John Melcher, Democrat of Montana -- to allow any consideration of target price legislation.

The Dole Compromise

- 1) Limit the 1984 wheat target price increase to \$4.38 instead of \$4.45 per bushel;
- 2) Provide for a 10% cash land diversion combined with a 20% acreage reduction;
- 3) Set a minimum payment rate of 85% of farm program yield for participants in next year's 10-20% Payment-in-Kind (PIK) program.

"The package represents a significant improvement over the program announced by Agriculture Secretary John Block on August 9 in which the \$4.45 target price is offset by a 30% unpaid acreage reduction combined with a 75% PIK payment rate," Dole concluded.