

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

SH 141 Hart Building, Washington, D.C. 20510

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1983

CONTACT: WALT RIKER
(202) 224-6521

GRANGE ENDORSES DOLE WHEAT PLAN

WASHINGTON --Kansas Senator Bob Dole today indicated that his compromise plan for the 1984 wheat program has picked up the support of the National Grange. "I welcome the positive encouragement provided by the Grange's position, and hope their support will increase the momentum in Congress to get something done," Dole said.

The letter from Edward Andersen, Master of the National Grange, states that "The National Grange commends you for your leadership in developing a wheat program for 1984 that meets the needs of the nation's wheat farmers." Noting the organization's opposition to a complete freeze on target prices at 1983 levels, Andersen added that the Grange "will support a reduction in the target price increase for 1984 in return for a wheat program for the 1984 crop year along the lines outlined in your compromise."

The Dole compromise provides for a minimum wheat target price of \$4.38 per bushel for the 1984 and 1985 crops, and would replace the 30% acreage reduction plan announced by USDA in August with a combined 10% paid diversion, 20% acreage reduction. In addition, the PIK payment rate would be increased from 75% to 85% under the Dole proposal.

The Grange's letter concludes, "We urge earliest possible consideration by the Senate of your 1984 wheat program." The Kansas Republican remarked that "my impression has always been that the Senate is ready to act on my target price plan, but that Senator Melcher (D-Mont.) is just as ready to continue preventing its consideration." Dole concluded, "I very much appreciate the Grange's expression of support."