

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE CHAIRS MEETING ON BONUS EXPORT PROGRAM

WASHINGTON -- Kansas Senator Bob Dole today headed a major meeting in the U.S. Capitol of commodity representatives, Ag group officials, farm state Senators and grain exporters to discuss the Administration's recently announced Export Enhancement Program.

The trade commodity experts told the Senators that the targeted retaliatory export program as outlined by Secretary Block on May 15 is too narrowly focused and could have a negative impact on U.S. prices.

"In my view, the Administration shouldn't lock itself into a program that may not do the job," Dole said, "and that's why today's meeting was so helpful. There was a clear consensus from the experts that the program needs to be across the board and not limited if the U.S. is to be fully competitive overseas. We'll continue to work with Secretary Block and the fine representatives who attended today's meeting to make sure the export program is efficient and effective."

According to Dole, some commodity officials stated that in order to make the U.S. more competitive for the year prior to enactment of the 1986 farm bill, USDA would have to use about \$2 billion up front in the first year, instead of the Administration's proposed \$650 million per year for three years.

Attending the Dole meeting were: The Fertilizer Institute, the National Association of Wheat Growers, the National Cotton Council, the National Grange, the American Soybean Association, the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives, the National Corn Growers Association, and the Rice Millers' Association. Grain export companies included Continental Grain, Louis Dreyfus, and Archer Daniels Midland.