

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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DOLE LAUDS KERR NOMINATION TO EXPORT ADVISORY GROUP

WASHINGTON -- SENATE MAJORITY LEADER BOB DOLE (R-KANS) SAID TODAY HE WAS "HIGHLY PLEASED" WITH THE SELECTION OF PRATT FARMER AND KANSAS STATE SENATOR FRED KERR AS A MEMBER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE'S EIGHT-MEMBER EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ADVISORY GROUP.

DOLE SAID: "FRED KERR WILL DO THE SAME OUTSTANDING JOB IN SUPERVISING THE USDA'S BONUS COMMODITY PROGRAM AS HE HAS DONE IN SHOWING LEADERSHIP ON AGRICULTURE ISSUES IN TOPEKA. KANSAS AND THE NATION AS A WHOLE COULD NOT DO BETTER THAN TO HAVE FRED ON THIS IMPORTANT PANEL."

KERR WAS ONE OF EIGHT PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVES NAMED TO THE ADVISORY GROUP BY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE JOHN BLOCK THIS AFTERNOON. THE GROUP WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MONITORING THE OPERATION OF THE EXPORT ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM ANNOUNCED BY BLOCK THREE WEEKS AGO.. UNDER THE PROGRAM, \$2 BILLION IN SURPLUS COMMODITIES OWNED BY THE COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION (CCC) WILL BE PROVIDED AS BONUSES TO EXPORTERS WHO SELL U.S. FARM PRODUCTS TO DESIGNATED FOREIGN COUNTRIES. THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS TO MAKE U.S. EXPORTS COMPETITIVE IN WORLD MARKETS AND TO OFFSET THE UNFAIR ADVANTAGE OF OTHER EXPORTERS THAT USE SUBSIDIES AND OTHER EXPORT PRACTICES.

DOLE DESCRIBED KERR AS A "NATURAL CHOICE" FOR THE SECRETARY'S ADVISORY GROUP. A PRATT COUNTY NATIVE, KERR FARMS 2,000 ACRES OF WHEAT, 500 ACRES OF GRAIN SORGHUM, AND 250 ACRES OF SOYBEANS, INCLUDING SEVERAL IRRIGATION SYSTEMS. A STATE SENATOR FOR THE PAST NINE YEARS, FRED SERVED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE STATE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE BETWEEN 1981 AND 1984, AND IS CURRENTLY CHAIRMAN OF THE TAXATION COMMITTEE.

"IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE BONUS PROGRAM BE ALLOWED TO MOVE U.S. PRODUCTS AGGRESSIVELY INTO COMPETITION IN THE WORLD MARKETPLACE," DOLE STATED. "WE CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE THE PROGRAM BOGGED DOWN AMID SUSPICIONS THAT IT IS ONLY SERVING THE INTERESTS OF A FEW LARGE EXPORTERS, WITH NO BENEFIT TO U.S. FARMERS. FOR THIS REASON, THE TASK OF THE ADVISORY GROUP IN MONITORING THE ACTIVITIES OF USDA IN CARRYING OUT THE PROGRAM ARE OF CRUCIAL IMPORTANCE," DOLE CONCLUDED.