

## News from Senator

# BOB DOLE



(R - Kansas)

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### DOLE MEETS WITH PRESIDENT ON FARM BILL; CALLS FOR BIPARTISAN COOPERATION IN EFFORT

(Washington, DC) -- Sen. Bob Dole today met with the President to discuss the 1985 farm bill, and emerged with a call for bipartisan cooperation to pass legislation to help American agriculture. Sen. Dole said he told the President about his visit to the 1985 Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson, KS, this past weekend and what he heard from farmers in the state.

Sen. Dole said, "I spent more than seven hours listening to scores of Kansas farmers, listening to their ideas. And during the week, I sought opinions on the farm bill through a questionnaire. Not surprisingly, farmers themselves are divided on how to improve the current farm programs. They are divided on the issue of mandatory controls, on farmer-owned reserves, even whether to extend current programs while Congress comes up with a new bill.

"This difference of opinion among farmers and farm groups is the big problem we have. We have the cotton people, the wheat people, the corn people, the dairy people, and all the rest, each wanting their own special program and a bigger slice of the budget.

"What we need is real cooperation from all the various parties. We haven't had that. Instead, we get farm crisis media-events and politicians making speeches. We had one of those last weekend in Hutchinson. Not many farmers got a word in edge-wise.

"The politicians who criticize President Reagan failed to point out that in the four years under Carter, the government spent \$20 billion on agriculture price supports. In the first four years under this President, the government spent \$63 billion.

"We have real problems in agriculture, and we need real efforts to solve the problems. The last thing we need is partisanship. Low prices, sagging exports and high interest rates on ag loans aren't solved by speeches. They're solved by cooperation and hard work," said Dole.

Sen. Dole said he found the President understanding of farmers' concerns, and received a renewed pledge to work with the Congress on an acceptable farm bill.