

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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SENATE-HOUSE FARM LEADERS AGREE ON FAST TRACK FOR FARM BILL

WASHINGTON -- FOLLOWING A MEETING WITH HOUSE AND SENATE FARM LEADERS AND AGRICULTURE SECRETARY JOHN BLOCK, KANSAS SENATOR BOB DOLE ANNOUNCED THERE WAS AGREEMENT TO MOVE AHEAD EXPEDITIOUSLY ON THE FARM BILL CONFERENCE IN ORDER TO COMPLETE ACTION BY THE END OF NEXT WEEK.

"ALL OF US AGREED THAT CONGRESS MUST ACT ON THE FARM BILL BEFORE WE ADJOURN THIS YEAR. TO ACCOMPLISH THIS, WE GAVE THE STAFF A 'GREEN LIGHT' TO IMMEDIATELY BEGIN RECONCILING DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE HOUSE AND SENATE BILLS," DOLE SAID.

ATTENDING THE MEETING WITH BLOCK IN THE MAJORITY LEADER'S OFFICE WERE SENATE AGRICULTURE CHAIRMAN JESSE HELMS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS ED ZORINSKY AND RICHARD LUGAR, HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN KIKA DE LA GARZA AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS EDWARD MADIGAN AND TOM FOLEY.

"THE FARM BILL IS ABOUT 600 PAGES LONG, AND CONTAINS 17 TITLES," DOLE NOTED. "THERE ARE AT LEAST 50 MAJOR ITEMS OF DISAGREEMENT. SO STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS COULD REALLY HELP SPEED THE PROCESS ALONG SO WE CAN GET A FINAL FARM PACKAGE BEFORE ADJOURNMENT."

DURING THE MEETING, SECRETARY BLOCK OUTLINED THE ADMINISTRATION'S POSITION ON MAJOR PROVISIONS, SUCH AS THE TARGET PRICE FREEZE, THE DAIRY PROGRAM, THE WHEAT REFERENDUM, AND CHANGES IN 1985 FARM PROGRAMS FOR SOYBEANS, SUGAR AND RICE.

"WORKING TOGETHER, I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE HOUSE, SENATE, AND ADMINISTRATION CAN COME UP WITH A VIABLE 1985 FARM BILL ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH THE ADMINISTRATION AND MOST FARMERS," DOLE CONCLUDED.