

News from Senator

BOB DOLE



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DOLE BLASTS CANADIAN DECISION AGAINST U.S. CORN PRODUCERS

Washington, DC -- Calling today's action by Canada to impose a duty on U.S. corn imported into Canada "an ill-advised decision" Senator Bob Dole (R-KS) urged the Reagan administration to explore possible means of retaliation.

Senator Dole said, "The Canadians are basically attacking the income supports of American farmers and calling them an export subsidy. This sets a bad precedent and encourages other countries to build walls against U.S. trade.

"If the Canadians, who have a favorable balance of trade with us, are going to block U.S. exports of corn to their country, then it seems only fair for the U.S. to look at restricting some of their exports to the U.S. I don't think the U.S. should wait two weeks until the Canadians release their documentation justifying their findings before we begin to explore our options."

Sen. Dole noted, "Our domestic programs have insulated the Canadians from price risks for years. The record shows our corn exports to Canada have been declining for several years, while Canadian corn production has increased 22-percent since 1980."

"If they want to complain that U.S. policy is finally making us more competitive, that's fine by me," said Sen. Dole. "I know of no law which says that U.S. producers shouldn't be allowed to compete in world markets. And with a new round of GATT talks underway, now is not the time to begin encouraging other nations around the world to set up protectionist barriers to U.S. farm exports."

The Canadian government issued the decision to impose a duty fee on corn of 85 cent-per-bushel in response to a petition by the Ontario Corn Producers Association which alleged 67 different U.S. farm programs represent illegal subsidies on American corn exports. The petition asked the Canadian government to impose countervailing duties to offset the value of the alleged subsidies on imported U.S. corn.