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DOLE DISCUSSES DROUGHT BILL WITH PRESIDENT;
BUSH AGREES, HOUSE MULTI-CROP BAIL-OUT "TOO EXPENSIVE"
SENATOR CALLS FOR CHAIRMEN AND RANKING REPUBLICANS TO MEET

WASHINGTON -- ON THE EVE OF EXPECTED SENATE COMMITTEE ACTION ON DROUGHT LEGISLATION, SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER BOB DOLE DISCUSSED POSSIBLE RELIEF MEASURES WITH THE PRESIDENT DURING A WHITE HOUSE MEETING. PRESIDENT BUSH AGREED WITH THE KANSAS SENATOR THAT THE HOUSE-PASSED DROUGHT PACKAGE WAS "TOO EXPENSIVE".

MEANWHILE, SENATOR DOLE TALKED WITH AGRICULTURE SECRETARY CLAYTON YEUTTER TODAY IN AN EFFORT TO DEVELOP A DISASTER RELIEF BILL THE ADMINISTRATION - AND THE TAXPAYERS - CAN AFFORD.

"PRESIDENT BUSH IS CORRECT. THE TAXPAYERS CAN'T AFFORD THE KIND OF FLOODGATE APPROACH THE HOUSE IS PROMOTING," DOLE SAID. "WE ARE SYMPATHETIC TO FARMERS FACING PROVEN DISASTERS, WHICH IS WHY WE HAVE TO CAREFULLY TARGET RELIEF DOLLARS. "I BELIEVE CHAIRMAN DE LA GARZA AND RANKING REPUBLICAN ED MADIGAN CAN PUT TOGETHER A RESPONSIBLE PACKAGE ON THE HOUSE SIDE."

"UNFORTUNATELY, WINTER WHEAT FARMERS ARE NOW EXPERIENCING ANOTHER DROUGHT - NO DISASTER RELIEF FROM CONGRESS," DOLE SAID "THESE PRODUCERS SIMPLY CAN'T WAIT ANY LONGER AND THEY DON'T DESERVE THE KIND OF STALL THEY ARE GETTING FROM CONGRESS."

DOLE SUGGESTED THAT SECRETARY YEUTTER MEET WITH THE CHAIRMEN AND RANKING REPUBLICANS IN THE SENATE AND HOUSE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEES PRIOR TO TOMORROW'S SCHEDULED DROUGHT MARK-UP TO DETERMINE IF THERE IS ANY WAY A SENSIBLE RELIEF PACKAGE CAN BE FASHIONED.

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