

OPENING REMARKS OF
SENATOR BOB DOLE
JANUARY 10, 1977
BEFORE THE
SENATE AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY COMMITTEE
CONFIRMATION HEARING
REPRESENTATIVE BOB BERGLAND AS
SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

MR. CHAIRMAN, I BELIEVE PRESIDENT-ELECT CARTER HAS SELECTED A CAPABLE AND QUALIFIED SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. I HAVE WORKED WITH CONGRESSMAN BERGLAND IN CONFERENCE COMMITTEES AND I KNOW HIM TO BE HARD WORKING AND KNOWLEDGEABLE. HE HAS EXPERIENCE WITH THE PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL AMERICA AND THE ABILITY TO WORK WITH MEMBERS OF BOTH PARTIES.

WHILE THERE MAY BE SOME DIFFERENCES IN OUR THINKING ABOUT HOW TO BEST SOLVE VARIOUS PROBLEMS, I BELIEVE CONGRESSMAN BERGLAND WILL APPROACH THESE PROBLEMS FAIRLY AND OBJECTIVELY.

I AM CONFIDENT THE COMMITTEE WILL SUPPORT YOUR NOMINATION AND WHEN YOU ASSUME YOUR DUTIES AS SECRETARY, I URGE YOU TO TAKE ACTION IN TWO PARTICULAR AREAS.

FIRST, MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO AGGRESSIVELY EXPAND OUR EXPORTS OF AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. I BELIEVE EXPANSION OF EXPORT MARKETS FOR U.S. FARM COMMODITIES IS THE KEY TO OUR FARM POLICY. WORLD PRICES ARE THE MOST COMPETITIVE IN A NUMBER OF YEARS. I URGE YOU TO SET A GOAL OF OBTAINING \$25 BILLION IN AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS BY 1980. EXPORTS LAST YEAR WERE \$22 BILLION. DO YOU BELIEVE THIS IS A REALISTIC LEVEL OR CAN WE DO EVEN BETTER?

WE MUST BE SUCCESSFUL IN THE CURRENT GATT NEGOTIATIONS IN GENEVA. I WOULD URGE THAT ONE OF THE THREE PRINCIPAL APPOINTMENTS IN THE OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRADE REPRESENTATIVE BE AN AGRICULTURAL TRADE EXPERT WITH THE RANK OF AMBASSADOR TO REPRESENT THE U.S. IN GENEVA AS MULTINATIONAL TRADE AGREEMENTS ARE NEGOTIATED. IF AGRICULTURE AGREEMENTS ARE NOT NEGOTIATED SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH INDUSTRIAL AND OTHER SECTORS OF TRADE, WE WILL HAVE DIFFICULTY IN MAKING PROGRESS IN LIBERALIZING AGRICULTURAL TRADE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE UNFAIR COMPETITION FOR OUR AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS SUCH AS WE HAVE SEEN BY THE EUROPEAN COMMON MARKET.

MR. CHAIRMAN, I DON'T MEAN TO LEAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT I SHALL SUPPORT ALL OF CONGRESSMAN BERGLAND'S ACTIONS AS SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE. ON THE CONTRARY, I AM SURE WE WILL OFTEN DIFFER IN OUR APPROACH TO THE SOLUTION OF FARM PROBLEMS. I AM CONFIDENT, HOWEVER, ON MANY MATTERS WE SHALL AGREE..., BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY, I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE BOTH ARE EQUALLY DEDICATED TO THE FUTURE WELL-BEING OF ALL THE FARMERS OF THE NATION.

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NEWS from
U.S. Senator
Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 224-6521

JANUARY 11, 1977

STATEMENT OF
SENATOR BOB DOLE
AT
BERGLAND CONFIRMATION HEARING

WASHINGTON, D.C. _-----

MR. CHAIRMAN, I believe President-elect Carter has selected a capable and qualified Secretary of Agriculture. I have worked with Congressman Bergland in Conference Committees and I know him to be hard working and knowledgeable. He has experience with the problems of agriculture and rural America and the ability to work with members of both parties.

While there may be some differences in our thinking about how to best solve various problems, I believe Congressman Bergland will approach these problems fairly and objectively.

I am confident the Committee will support your nomination and when you assume your duties as Secretary, I urge you to take action in two particular areas.

First, make every effort to aggressively expand our exports of agricultural products. I believe expansion of export markets for U.S. farm commodities is the key to our farm policy. World prices are the most competitive in a number of years. I urge you to set a goal of obtaining \$25 billion in agricultural exports by 1980. Exports last year were \$22 billion. Do you believe this is a realistic level or can we do even better?

We must be successful in the current GATT negotiations in Geneva. I would urge that one of the three principal appointments in the office of the Special Trade Representative be an agricultural trade expert with the rank of Ambassador to represent the U.S. in Geneva as multinational trade agreements are negotiated. If agriculture agreements are not negotiated simultaneously with industrial and other sectors of trade, we will have difficulty in making progress in liberalizing agricultural trade. We will continue to have unfair competition for our agricultural exports such as we have seen by the European Common Market.

Mr. Chairman, I don't mean to leave the impression that I shall support all of Congressman Bergland's actions as Secretary of Agriculture. On the contrary, I am sure we will often differ in our approach to the solution of farm problems. I am confident, however, on many matters we shall agree, but most importantly, I am confident that we both are equally dedicated to the future well-being of all the farmers of the nation.