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World Food Prize goes to McGovern, Dole

The former presidential nominees are honored for a school program.

By **PHILIP BRASHER**
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Washington, D.C. — George McGovern and Robert Dole were named winners of this year's World Food Prize on Friday for crossing party lines to create a program to alleviate hunger and promote education among some of the world's poorest children.

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program has provided food to 22 million children in 41 countries, boosting school

attendance by 14 percent.

McGovern and Dole, both former presidential nominees and rivals in the Senate, have been working together since the 1970s when they set aside their deep political differences to expand domestic feeding programs, including school lunches, food stamps and aid to poor mothers.

McGovern, now 85 and a former Democratic senator from South Dakota, came up with the idea of the international feeding program while later serving as the U.S. representative to United Nations food programs. He sold it to then-President Clinton in 2000, the final year of his presidency.

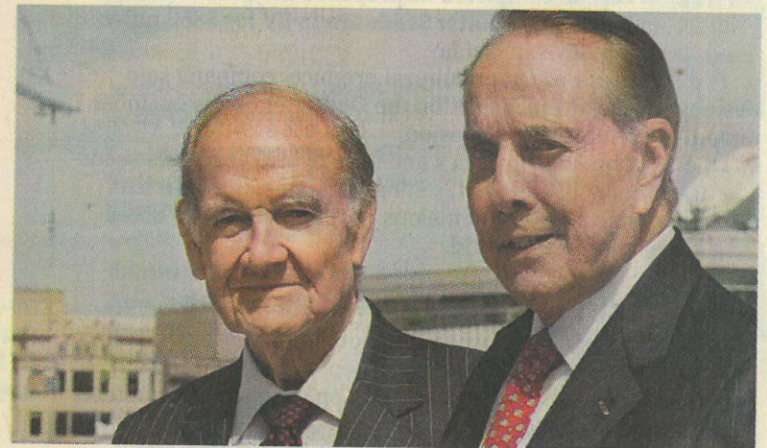
McGovern tapped Dole, a for-

mer Republican majority leader in the Senate from Kansas, to win GOP support for the program. Republicans controlled both houses of Congress at the time.

Kenneth Quinn, president of the World Food Prize Foundation, said the program has led to "dramatically increased international support" for school-feeding operations globally.

"You could not find two better advocates and important historical figures for winning this prize," said Dan Glickman, who was agriculture secretary in 2000.

"No doubt that George McGovern's tenacity got us at USDA, and especially President Clinton, **FOOD PRIZE, PAGE 2D**



HEATHER WINES/GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

Now fighting world hunger, George McGovern, left, and Bob Dole, pictured in Washington, once battled on different sides of the Senate aisle but united in the 1970s to expand domestic feeding programs.

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