

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

COMMITTEE:
AGRICULTURE

DISTRICT OFFICES:
ROOMS 210-211
FEDERAL BUILDING
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

BOX 31
RUSSELL, KANSAS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

COUNTIES:		
BARBER	HODGEMAN	RAWLINS
BARTON	JEWELL	RENO
CHEYENNE	KEARNEY	REPUBLIC
CLARK	KINGMAN	RICE
CLOUD	KIOWA	ROOKS
COMANCHE	LANE	RUSH
DECATUR	LINCOLN	RUSSELL
EDWARDS	LOGAN	SALINE
ELLIS	MEADE	SCOTT
ELLSWORTH	MITCHELL	SEWARD
FINNEY	MORTON	SHERIDAN
FORD	NESS	SHERMAN
GOVE	NORTON	SMITH
GRAHAM	OSBORNE	STAFFORD
GRANT	OTTAWA	STANTON
GRAY	PAWNEE	STEVENS
GREELEY	PHILLIPS	THOMAS
HAMILTON	PRATT	TREGO
HARPER		WALLACE
HASKELL		WICHITA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Moorhead, Minnesota, April 27, 1963--Congressman Bob Dole

(R-Kansas) was the principal speaker tonight at the Young Republican League of Minnesota State Convention here.

Congressman Dole has been a sharp critic of Secretary Freeman's farm policies and last November defeated a three-time Democrat, J. Floyd Breeding, Wheat Subcommittee Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture. Secretary Freeman had publicly praised former Congressman Breeding last year as the architect of the 1964 certificate wheat program/

Dole wasted no time in pointing out he felt Secretary Freeman was directly responsible for the costly propaganda campaign now being conducted through efforts of thousands of U.S.D.A. employees in a desperate attempt to "sell" the 1964 Wheat Program and obtain a favorable vote in the wheat referendum on May 21.

Dole stated, "I can understand Agriculture Secretary Freeman's desire to get farm programs of his origination enacted by Congress. But it seems he is overstepping the bounds of propriety and good conduct in office when he resorts to misrepresentations and threats to swing others to his way of thinking. In the past, it always has been the job of the Department of Agriculture to assist and inform the farmers but to let them make their decisions. Today the idea seems to be to tell the farmers what they can and must do, and to threaten them with all sorts of dire consequences if they do not do it.

"Freeman says if farmers vote "No" it will mean \$1 wheat instead of \$2 wheat. This simply is not true and he knows it. The American farmer should be entitled to vote in any referendum freely and without fear of executive or legislative reprisal. He should be guaranteed his right to free expression in the basic American concept."

Congressman Dole pointed out specific areas wherein the Department of Agriculture was employing questionable methods to obtain a favorable referendum vote:

(more)

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"1. Monthly newsletter are sent to every farmer in Kansas, and I assume throughout the country," Dole said. "The contents of the newsletter are suggested by someone in the A.S.C.S. in Washington and then passed on to each state A.S.C.S. office down to the county A.S.C. offices. In a March newsletter to many Kansas farmers it was stated, for example:

"1964 WHEAT PROGRAM REFERENDUM -- \$2.00 or ?

While there are several details farmers want to know about the 1964 Wheat Program, one primary point is that a "yes" vote means about \$2.00 wheat and a "no" vote means a much lower price, probably about \$1.00 per bushel."

2. In a so-called "pilot project" A.S.C. offices have mailed four-page statements concerning the 1964 wheat program to many Kansas businessmen including a statement, "Perhaps a better understanding of the farmer's problems as well as the farm problem will help you in making decisions in your business." This letter, Dole stated, contains 25 questions and answers slanted as to indicate anything but a "yes" vote would be disaster for the American wheat farmer.

3. Dole noted that high administrative officials in the USDA are pushing the 1964 Feed Grain Program through Congress in an effort to "sweeten" the wheat referendum and to frighten the American wheat producer into submission.

4. A post-card campaign in Wisconsin was another example, Dole said. Best information available is that A.S.C. committee members were distributing post-cards to farmers with instruction to send them to their Congressman urging him to support the 1964 Feed Grain Program.

Dole also referred to hundreds and thousands of pamphlets, hundreds of radio tapes and T.V. clips, and thousands of meetings being held all over the country. "It seems to me for one not eligible to vote in the referendum Freeman is assuming unprecedented liberties in bringing the full weight of the U.S.D.A. down upon the American farmer," Dole said.

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"The taxpayers will never know the cost of his unprecedented 'referendum politics' but worse than the cost, is the fact Freeman, President Kennedy, and Democrat leaders in Congress have advised the American wheat producer there will be no new legislation if the referendum fails. This is a flagrant example of Old Frontier justice where the sentence is pronounced before the jury returns the verdict. The farmer in this instance is like a defendant being tried where the prosecutor and the judge are one and the same person," Dole said.

Dole ~~concluded, that~~ ^{just} ~~the~~ ^{majority} of Congressmen, ^{myself included} ~~including himself, have~~ ^{already feel we} concluded they have no right to tell the American wheat farmer how he ^{to} ~~should~~ ^{in the referendum may not} vote and added ~~these same members of Congress~~ ^{are not about} to sell the wheat producer down the river if the referendum fails. He added, "The American farmer should know by now who his ^{executors} ~~executors~~ are, and whether Republican or Democrat, should bear this in mind in the 1964 elections, and ^{on} ~~on~~ May 21 the farmer should vote his conviction, ^{yes} ~~'yes'~~ or ~~'no'~~. It is one thing for farm organizations to take sides but quite another for the U.S.D.A., the very agency conducting the referendum, as well as the one establishing the rules and regulations ^{to do so}