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

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July 17, 1963

Partial statement of Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) given on the House Floor on July 17 on H.R. 101, the Boiled Peanut Bill;

"TO BE OR NOT TO BE"

"A rose is a rose is a rose." From this it would seem to follow, "A peanut, is a peanut, is a peanut."

Nevertheless, this distinguished legislative body has before it today a bill (H.R. 101) which says, a peanut is not a peanut when boiled. A roasted peanut remains a peanut. A peanut fed to a hog is still a peanut to the hog, but a boiled peanut is not a peanut at all.

Such fine distinctions in my opinion should not be left to the discretion of mere Members of Congress. This is a more proper subject for philosophical discussion, and perhaps the entire matter should be turned over to those who delight in debating such unresolved questions as the classical one involving the number of angels who can dance on the point of a pin.

Congress has been in session for more than six months now and we read it may be until Christmas, and, in fact, the question is not "when" but "if" Congress will adjourn this year.

This Congress has been described as "balky", but consistent with the slow motion 87th Congress. The legislative record this year offers some hope for the American taxpayer on the basis that generally "no legislation is good legislation."

It seems significant a day is set aside for heated debate on boiled peanuts. In just six and one-half months we have extended the draft, increased the debt limit, assured equal pay to women for equal work; not to mention, extension of temporary excise taxes and

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passage of the Administration's political feed grain program.

If this hot issue is disposed of today perhaps such minor programs as tax reduction and reform; wheat, cotton, and dairy legislation; civil rights; and a host of other important matters, including adjournment, may yet reach the floor.

The bill before us is symbolic of the ultimate folly of any control program in agriculture, and should alert all members to the basic need of a complete overhaul of farm programs, perhaps starting with a sizeable reduction in U.S.D.A. personnel here and abroad. Some, including myself, doubt the advisability of Secretary Freeman leaving the country at this critical time, while others only regret he did not leave at an earlier date. Nonetheless, he is temporarily absent, I guess, not only at a time when peanuts are in "hot water," but when wheat, dairy, and cotton farmers of America are demonstrating their interest in new voluntary legislation.

Those concerned may be interested in knowing that today Secretary Freeman is still visiting Russia. Upon landing in Moscow last Sunday he was greeted by roving Ambassador Averell Harriman. Harriman traveled to Russia to negotiate a test-ban, however, Freeman's trip may well be a fore-runner of another ban, soon to be imposed by the President.

Nonetheless, while Orville studies "progress"--in Russian agriculture and other world affairs--we just talk "peanuts."

Shall we go down in history as the Congress that labored, labored, and labored, and finally brought forth the peanut--a boiled one, at that?? Remember-- "He that would eat the kernel must crack the nut."

(Latin Proverb)