

For Immediate Release, September 18, 1963

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) left Washington at noon today to attend a meeting in Salina, Kansas, at 8:00 p.m. tonight. Dole stated the meeting ^{one} was/of Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman's "Report and Review" meetings billed as an attempt by Freeman to determine the wishes of the American farmer. "As a member of the Wheat Subcommittee of the House Committee on Agriculture and since Salina, Kansas, is in my Congression district I want to see first hand whether these meetings may be helpful." Dole said.

Dole stated, "Political overtones are apparent as indicated by the statement of Lud W. Strnad of Brewster, Kansas. Mr. Strnad has indicated he will present Secretary Freeman with a detailed list of recommended changes. Coming from Mr. Strnad this is unusual as Mr. Strnad has been a member of the President's National Agricultural Advisory Commission since May 5, 1961 and has had every opportunity to make suggestions. It is interesting to note that Mr. Strnad as a member of the Advisory Commission receives allowances for travel and subsistence expenses. In fiscal 1962 he received a total of \$1,759.01 for attending meetings, etc. in an effort to 'sell' the Freeman programs.

Dole concluded, "To the winter wheat producer in Kansas who in many areas is now seeding his wheat, the trip of Secretary Freeman comes a little late and, in fact, further delays consideration of wheat legislation. A 'See America First' policy would have aided the possibility of enacting legislation following the May referendum. While it is certainly proper for the Secretary to be concerned, it is equally proper to note that not one U.S.D.A. official has appeared before the House or Senate Agriculture Committees in an effort to offer constructive advice or assistance. The only appearances before the House Wheat Subcommittee were those of Edwin Jaenke, Associate Administrator, Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service, U.S.D.A. and Dr. John Schnittker, Staff Economist, U.S.D.A., on Wednesday, September 11, at which time they expressed the Department's opposition to suspending operation of the so-called "Anfuso" Amendment and asked for more time to consider the suggestion to raise the release price of Commodity Credit Corporation stocks from 105 to 115 percent of the support price for the 1964 crop.

"Over 50 members of Congress, both Democrat and Republican, have introduced various wheat programs,

all of them based on voluntary participation by the
farmer. If Secretary Freeman learns nothing more
than that farmers will cooperate if given a reasonable
voluntary program, then his trip will be a success,
and the future of American agriculture may be improved,"
Dole said.

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