

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

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CAPITOL 4-3121, EXT. 2715

COMMITTEE:
AGRICULTURE

DISTRICT OFFICE:
210 FEDERAL BUILDING
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67501

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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BARTON JEWELL RENO
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For Immediate Release
Tuesday, March 24, 1964

STATEMENT BEFORE RULES COMMITTEE ON WHEAT-COTTON BILL

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) told members of the House Rules Committee today that, "Failure of the House of Representatives to follow normal legislative procedure in consideration of the Wheat-Cotton bill will make the House a mere "rubber stamp" for this and subsequent Senate action. There are marked differences between the wheat measure passed by the Senate and the so called "Purcell Bill" considered briefly by the Wheat Subcommittee and moved on to the full Agriculture Committee by an 8 to 5 vote "Without Recommendation", Dole stated.

He further stated: "The action of the Majority party in efforts to ram the wheat portion of the Wheat-Cotton bill through the House, with only "token" hearings before the House Committee on Agriculture should shock the conscience of those who loudly protest almost identical procedural maneuvering with respect to the Civil Rights bill in the Senate. The Senate after nearly 2 weeks debate has not yet decided whether the Civil Rights measure should go to the Senate Judiciary Committee for hearings or be considered as pending business to be taken up by the Senate, without Committee. If such action is taken by the other body it will thwart normal legislation procedure just as the majority here, and as was attempted last December when efforts were made to yank the Civil Rights bill out of ^{this} Committee by Discharge Petition.

"The Rules Committee can still protect the rights of American farmers by granting a Rule which will permit amendments and full debate on the floor.

"There is no valid reason to deny the House an opportunity to work its will. Those of us from wheat producing areas consider this a most serious matter, and believe the bill can be improved and in fact offered constructive amendments in the Wheat Subcommittee and in the full Committee in the "rubber stamp" session, March 11, 1963. Some of these amendments were:

1. Increased price support loans effective July 1, 1964.
2. Increased release price to 115 percent of loan price, plus carrying charges in an effort to strengthen the farmers' income.
3. Authorize temporary acreage diversion payments for those in compliance this and subsequent years.
4. Repeal marketing quotas, for 1965, and subsequent years, and also provide authority to permit those who overseed and overharvest to avoid "loss of history" by storing under bond at their own expense.

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5. Extend conservation reserve contracts which expired December 31, 1963, and those expiring in subsequent years.
6. Repeal or suspend provisions requiring a referendum.

"A highly important question relates to the "voluntary aspect" of the pending wheat program. Under the pending bill there is serious doubt whether compulsory features of the mandatory program rejected by farmers last May 21 have been eliminated. The change may simply be from "statutory compulsion" to "economic compulsion" for under the pending program the non-complier can be literally forced into the program or in the alternative, receive only feed--not market--price--for his wheat as the Secretary of Agriculture by dumping surplus C.C.C. stocks on the market can depress market prices.

"Why is it the differences between the House and Senate versions have not been explained? What does this Wheat bill do, and fail to do, for the American Wheat producer? Why the rush by the Administration, particularly Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, to avoid a Wheat Referendum this year. Too many farmers have been led to believe the wheat portion of the Wheat-Cotton package provides \$2.00 per bushel but as a matter of fact the farmer will receive \$2.00 for only 45% of his production, \$1.55 for 45% and \$1.30 for the remaining 10%. Diversion payments are at an all time low of between \$5.00 and \$6.00 per acre and the overall benefits amount to only about 72% of parity, the lowest in over 15 years."

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