

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE (R-Kans.)

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Washington, D. C.

Congressman Bob Dole, Republican of Kansas today expressed extreme shock and disappointment over developments on sugar legislation last week. Chairman Cooley of the House Agriculture Committee released a statement last week proposing a one-year extension of foreign quotas established under the sugar program. Mr. Cooley also stated that the import fee should be repealed, that marketing of excess sugar from the 1963 and 1964 crops should be allowed but that beet growers should be forced to take acreage restrictions and sharp reductions in 1965. A full review of the act should, according to Mr. Cooley, be put off until next year.

"The action proposed by Mr. Cooley is completely unacceptable to beet growers" Rep. Dole said, "and as a member of the Committee on Agriculture, I cannot accept his proposal for three reasons: First; beet acreage restrictions for 1965 have already been suspended by the Department of Agriculture. To reimpose controls now by law would be breaking faith with thousands of growers who have relied on the USDA announcement. Second; The Cooley proposal would slam the door tight for any new beet producers or new areas to obtain the chance to grow sugar beets. I see no reason why American sugar beet growers should be held down and controlled while foreigners, who in many cases are unreliable allies of the United States, sell us large amounts of sugar. Third; In 1965, the cotton, wheat, wool, and feed grain programs all expire. To add a full scale review of sugar to this heavy legislative schedule is obviously not practical."

"Our national sugar program", Dole also said, "was enacted into law in 1934 and was based on Cuba as the largest single foreign supplier and a dependable source of supply only 90 miles from the United States mainland." This situation has drastically changed since Cuba became a Communist country and is no longer supplying sugar to the United States. For our foreign supply we are now becoming dependent upon South and Central American countries with unstable government and in some instances even Communist leanings." "The time is now at hand", he said, "to rely more heavily on our own farmers."

Congressman Dole said he joined with other members of the Agriculture Committee last week, during an executive session, in a bi-partisan effort to get Chairman Cooley to hold brief hearings with the view to amending the sugar act before adjournment of the 88th Congress.

Rep. Dole has introduced legislation to increase the domestic beet quota by 750,000 tons and advocates new grower provisions allowing beet processing facilities to be built in Western Kansas.