From the Office of Rep. Bob Dole   For Release after 1 p.m., May 22, 1965

Liberal-Rep. Bob Dole, here Saturday to address Republican women of the First Congressional District, discussed pending farm legislation and stated, "Congress is still at least two months away from acting on farm legislation."

"It's the same old story," Dole said, "with the farmer waiting and worrying, while Congress delays action. One reason for the delay was that the Administration proposals were not introduced until April 5, and the programs effect wheat, feed grains, wool, cotton, dairy products, rice, sugar, as well as an extension and modification of the soil bank and a proposal authorizing transfer of allotments. The various sub-committees have been meeting daily but with so many commodities involved, it is difficult to hear all the witnesses and reach any agreement on basic proposals in a short time.

"The House Agriculture Committee is seriously considering a four-year program for both wheat and feed grains. Whether the farmer is for or against a specific program, he would in four years at least have time to adjust to it. If the wheat certificate plan is extended, it is quite likely the value of domestic wheat certificates would be fixed at a 100% parity. The farmer then would receive 100% of parity for approximately 45% of his production. For the balance of wheat produced, he would receive between $1.25 and $1.35 per bushel. In addition, the farmer who complies with the program will receive payments for diverted acres. No one should be under any illusion that the program now being considered will greatly improve farm income.

"Since 1961, net farm income has remained at virtually the same level while total farm debt has increased nearly 50%. The total farm debt today, for example, is greater than the entire federal budget in the year 1948. In 1961, U. S. farmers were indebted $1.97 for every dollar of realized net income. But this year, after four years of current farm programs, the farmer will owe a whopping $2.86 for every income dollar. This is shocking when considering that the farmer owed only about $2.30 per income dollar in 1929, the eve of the great depression.

"The farmer is being forced more and more to use credit as a substitute for income", Dole stated. "The $64 question is what will the farmer do when there are no assets left upon which to borrow. It is hoped the farm bill now being considered by the committee can be improved to increase the farmers income. This can be partially achieved by increasing the minimum price for sales of wheat from Commodity Credit Corporation from 105% of the loan rate plus reasonable carrying charges to 115 or 120% of the loan rate plus reasonable carrying charges.

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