

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY A.M.'s
July 28, 1965

All five Members of the House of Representatives from Kansas today urged President Johnson to suspend further GATT (General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade) negotiations on agricultural products until such time as the German and French elections have been held and the EEC (European Economic Community) has reached agreement on grain financing regulations. The Congressmen stated that immediate action in this area would "sharply increase our grain exports" by allowing the U.S. to "become a vigorous competitor in the world wheat export markets at the lowest possible price."

Kansas is the largest wheat producing state in the Union averaging about 200 million bushels per year.

The full text of the letter follows:

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

General deGaulle's withdrawal from the councils of the EEC opens up possibilities for the United States to take immediate action that would sharply increase our grain exports, as well as serve free world interests in other ways:

1. By moving to suspend further GATT negotiations on agricultural products, we could free ourselves from our commitment to the EEC grains pricing scheme as well as to so-called "guaranteed access." We would then be able to insist upon the right to price U.S. wheat in the world market at the low levels which reflect our growing efficiency and which would swell our wheat exports by making them competitive in virtually every nation in the world.
2. By agreeing to suspend further agricultural negotiations at least until after the German and French elections and until after the EEC can reach internal agreement on grain financing regulations, we would give respite to our friends from U.S. pressures which they can hardly welcome and which, in the face of European reluctance, probably could not result in an agreement that would be in our interest.

We therefore urge you to delay any further Kennedy Round talks on agriculture (except perhaps at the working party level) until after the French and German elections and until after the EEC has reached internal agreement on its grain financing policy. Meanwhile, we urge that the U.S. become a vigorous competitor in the world wheat export markets at the lowest possible price.

Sincerely,

s/ Robert F. Ellsworth
3rd, Kansas
s/ Bob Dole
1st, Kansas
s/ Chester L. Mize
2nd, Kansas
s/ Garner E. Shriver
4th, Kansas
s/ Joe Skubitz
5th, Kansas

For further information call the office of Congressman Robert F. Ellsworth, 225-2865.