

WASHINGTON, D. C.
MARCH 2, 1966

FOR RELEASE AFTER 9:30 P.M.
SATURDAY, MARCH 5

(SMITH CENTER)

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans) discussed the significance of the Agriculture Act of 1965 at the Smith County Farmers Union in Smith Center, Kansas, Saturday evening. In the course of his remarks, Dole stated, "Our wheat stocks are no longer of surplus proportions. We are looking forward to an increase in wheat acreage allotments next year to avoid reducing stocks below desirable reserve levels. The 1965 legislation permits this flexibility. Since the increased production will not be sold in commercial markets, however, but will be used to increase our international food aid, the increase in wheat production will be accompanied by further increases in government costs.

"I was greatly encouraged by the President's message on 'Food for Freedom and War on Hunger', which he sent to the Congress on Feb. 10. I think we can and we should do more by way of helping those nations who are making a major effort to solve their food problems.

"I am apprehensive, however, that a tight budgetary situation will prevent us from doing much more than meeting the famine needs, such as we are now doing in India. I am not at all confident that the 1965 farm legislation assures Kansas feed grain producers that their incomes ~~will~~ will be maintained at recent levels if crop yields continue to increase."

"Related to this is the fact that land values and farm debts have been rising rapidly in recent years. I note that the national farm mortgage debt has increased by almost 2/3 in the past 5 years. Farmers' short-term debt has also increased by 1/2. Kansas farmers have probably increased their debts in about the same proportion. I hope they do not increase them further this year on the mistaken assumption that the new four-year farm legislation assures higher farm incomes in the next few years."

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Congressman Dole indicated that without question Congress would extend
and expand P. L. 480 popularly known as the Food For Peace program this year.

"In my opinion," he stated, "the world food crisis presents this
nation with both a challenge and an opportunity -- a challenge for us to
assume the leadership required to meet a world problem of possible epic
proportions, and a potential opportunity for the American farmer to achieve
a new economic vitality."

He asked the questions, "As a Christian nation, can we overlook
this challenge of conscience? Can we sit idly by while countless millions
of fellow human beings starve to death?"

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