

FOR RELEASE: April 26, 1966--P.M.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPUBLICANS HIT BOYCOTT CHARGE

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Four House Republicans today termed as "ridiculous" a charge that they had "boycotted" a recent hearing on a packer-feeder bill in Des Moines, Iowa.

Representative Albert Quie of Minnesota, Ralph Harvey of Indiana, Catherine May of Washington, and Bob Dole of Kansas, all members of the Livestock and Feed Grains Subcommittee, stated that they were not notified of the hearing until after it had been scheduled and were not advised or consulted about the subject matter at any time prior to the announcement on April 7. Later that week, Chairman Harold Copley scheduled full Agriculture Committee hearings for April 21 and 22 which were subsequently cancelled.

"We Republicans found ourselves in the same position as the Subcommittee Chairman, Rep. Bob Poage (D-Tex) in that none of us were able to break long-standing previous commitments at the last minute," Rep. Quie, the Senior GOP member, said.

"We would certainly have attempted to break these earlier commitments if we felt there was some compelling reason other than pure partisan politics to hold the hearing at this particular time and under these circumstances."

"We want to make it clear that we believe the Subcommittee should give serious attention to packer-feeder legislation which has been pending before the Congress and which has been subject to extensive hearings for the last several years. Furthermore and more immediately appropriate to the livestock farmer, increasing attention should be given to the recent actions of the Administration designed to deliberately depress livestock prices. These actions have included the sale of large quantities of CCC-owned corn to hold down feed grain prices; the imposition of export controls on cattle hides, calf and kip skins; the curtailment of military purchases of pork, and stepped-up imports of cheddar cheese."

"These are all real problems that livestock producers face right now and are problems we would hope could be approached in a constructive bi-partisan manner," the Republican Congressmen said.

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