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ICT OFFICE: ERAL BUILDING ON, KANSAS 67501 **Congress of the United States House of Representatives Mashington, D.C.** 20515

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WASHINGTON, D. C. JUNE 23, 1966

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congressman Bob Dole charged the Johnson Administration with deliberately killing the Small Watershed Program, thus bringing to a halt 12 years of progress that has been made on this phase of soil and water conservation.

Dole is a member of the Conservation and Credit Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee to which watershed authorizations are submitted for review and approval.

"President Johnson must shoulder the responsibility for not a single application being forwarded to our committee this year, and inquiries I have made indicate none will be submitted this year. The Soil Conservation Service, which has always given our committee splendid cooperation, has forwarded 46 applications to the Budget Bureau for review in accordance with established procedure, but they have been pidgeonholed there on the President's orders," Dole asserted.

"Mr. Johnson has decided our committee no longer has a right to review these applications and that he should be the final arbiter of them. This incredible position is based upon an unbelievable legal opinion that the present Act, which has been in effect since 1954, is unconstitutional. But Public Law 566, The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, clearly vests our committee with this authority, and it has operated well and without question for a dozen years.

"This is simply another example of Administration indifference toward the Nation's farmers and agriculture generally," Dole charged. "Watershed development in Kansas which has made such dramatic progress under the able guidance of State Conservationist Morrie Bolline, is being retarded by the President's recalcitrance, as is the development of this important program elsewhere in the Nation," Dole concluded.