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FOR INTEDIATE RELEASE

VERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE: 210 FEDERAL BUILDING

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

June 30, 1966

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COUNTIES:

WASHINGTON-Rep. Bob Dole (R. Kans.), in a letter to Secretary of Agriculture, Orville L. Freeman, urged the Secretary to further increase the national wheat acreage allotment for 1967, and to take the necessary steps to insure that wheat farmers receive fair market prices for any additional wheat production next year and thereafter.

Dole pointed out that reliable estimates of the uncommitted wheat carryover on July 1, 1966, are being made as low as 350 million bushels and that this represents only 63 percent of the 550 million bushel carryover the Secretary anticipates on that date.

"Because of numerous factors," Dole stated, "it now appears that even with the announced 15 percent increase in wheat acreage, the anticipated U. S. carryover of wheat on July 1, 1967, may reach the dangerously low level of between 250 and 400 million bushels. This estimated carryover could drop even lower if the nation's spring wheat crop should not meet current expectations.

"As we know," Dole continued, "both Argentina and Australia had disappointing wheat harvests this year. Canada has already programmed large amounts of wheat not yet produced for export the next several years. This leaves the United States with the only sizable uncommitted wheat reserve in the world. Moreover, we have the acres and the capability of sharply increasing wheat production on relatively short notice. The recently announced 15 percent increase in wheat acreage, while helpful, is not, in my opinion, sufficient to meet rising world demands for wheat.

"The July crop report will be an important factor in deciding the amount of any further increase in wheat allotments, but regardless of that report, I also urge you to take appropriate administrative action to insure that additional wheat production from the 1967 crop will be marketed at fair prices to wheat farmers. Specifically, this would include the exercise of your export subsidy policy in a manner designed to to increase the world price of wheat. In addition, and as a minimum, domestic wheat sales by Commodity Credit Corporation at prices below 80 percent of parity, plus reasonable charges, should be restricted.

"If American wheat producers are going to be asked to increase production to help feed hungry people throughout the world, and certainly they will meet this challenge, they should receive a fair price for the extra production not covered by wheat marketing certificates. Our country is in a strong position to increase the World price and benefit the domestic producer without any adverse effect on American export or dollar sales," Dole concluded.