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1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

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COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
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DISTRICT OFFICE:
210 FEDERAL BUILDING
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67301

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

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WASHINGTON, D. C.
August 24, 1966

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congressmen Albert Quie (R-Minn.) and Bob Dole (R-Kan.) have written each of the 15 Senators on the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee suggesting an amendment to the "Food For Freedom" proposal.

"It is our understanding the Senate Committee may take final action on the measure this week, and we feel our suggested amendment, or some modification, is necessary to protect domestic farm prices and also to preserve our food aid commitments to free world countries," Dole and Quie stated.

The text of their letter is as follows:

August 23, 1966

In view of recent reports and speculation concerning a cut in exports of grain and other commodities under Public Law 480, we are taking this opportunity to request your consideration of the attached amendment to H. R. 14929 which is now pending in your Committee.

The purpose of this amendment is to prevent a sharp curtailment of Public Law 480 shipments which could only result in price-breaking domestic surpluses in the United States.

As members of the House Committee on Agriculture, we feel the clear intent of H. R. 14929 is to direct an expansion, not a contraction, of the programs carried out under Public Law 480. The change from "surplus" to "available" embodied in this legislation is a change that is designed to increase U. S. exports, not decrease them.

Accordingly, any increase in exports of U. S. farm commodities should be carried out within a domestic price structure that is fair to American farmers. U. S. farmers should not be called upon to produce at artificially low prices which have been induced by sales from government inventories into the domestic market. Nor should this Act be administered in a manner that will give inventory build-up a priority over the needs of hungry people in friendly nations.

The amendment is designed to prevent program activity during the life of the Act's current extension from falling below the volume and value of program activity during 1966. It also carries a policy direction to the Secretary to refrain from using this Act as an instrument for imposing market price ceilings on farm commodities produced in the United States.

We sincerely hope you will give this suggestion your earnest consideration, and we stand ready to offer our cooperation on this matter.

The suggested amendment is as follows:

At the end of section 401 insert the following:

" : Provided, That in no event shall either the total value or the total volume of agricultural commodities made available under this Act, during any calendar year, be less than that exported under this Act during the year ending December 31, 1966: Provided further, That nothing in this Act shall be construed to authorize the Secretary to accumulate Commodity Credit Corporation inventories of any agricultural commodity for the purpose of using such inventories to depress or stabilize the domestic market price of any agricultural commodity."