

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

243 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE 202
225-2715

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE:
210 FEDERAL BUILDING
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67301

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

BARBER	HODGEMAN	RAWLII
BARTON	JEWELL	RENO
CHEYENNE	KEARNY	REPUBI
CLARK	KINGMAN	RICE
CLOUD	KIOWA	ROOKS
COMANCHE	LANE	RUSSEL
DECATUR	LINCOLN	RUSSEL
EDWARDS	LOGAN	SALINE
ELLIS	MEADE	SCOTT
ELLSWORTH	MITCHELL	SEWAR
FINNEY	MORTON	SHERM
FORD	NESS	SMITH
GOVE	NORTON	STAFFC
GRAHAM	OSBORNE	STANTC
GRANT	OTTAWA	STEVEN
GRAY	PAWNEE	TREGO
GREELEY	PHILLIPS	THOMA
HAMILTON	PRATT	WALLA
HARPER		WICHIT
HASKEL		

CONGRESSMAN DOLE REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON

FOR RELEASE: WEEK OF APRIL 24, 1967

"Facts Refute Freeman Claims"

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman visited Kansas April 19 to ask farmers to "advise and counsel" with him on the causes of declining farm prices.

In a speech delivered at Hutchinson, he indicated that things were pretty bad when he became Secretary a little more than six years ago. He said farm prices and income have improved under his stewardship.

Mr. Freeman must be using some kind of "new math". The farm price and cost figures Kansas farmers are entering in their own ledgers this year tell quite a different story.

Farm Income Down

Just in the last year, according to the Agriculture Department's own published figures, hog prices are down 25%, beef cattle down 10.4%, sheep down 16%, lambs down 19.8%, eggs down 16.9%, chickens down 17.9%. The parity ratio, which averaged 84.5 during the eight Eisenhower years, is currently down to 74 and may be heading even lower as farm production costs continue to rise under the inflationary forces generated by war and the Administration's big-spending programs.

The most recent "Agricultural Prices" report of USDA shows the average price received by farmers for wheat on March 15, 1967, was \$1.59 per bushel. This compares with a 1957-59 average price of \$1.84, according to USDA. Cattle prices are depressed under the combined weight of huge meat imports and the discovery by USDA a few weeks ago that there are some 4 million more cattle in the United States than had been previously reported.

Moreover, in comparing farm prices and income in 1967 with those of the 1950's, it must be remembered that the dollar has lost much of its purchasing power. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that a dollar is worth 13 cents less in actual purchasing power now than it was in the 1957-59 base period. To put it another way, if a farmer had a net income of \$5,000 a year in the 1957-59 period, he would have to earn about \$5,700 in 1967 to have the same income, in terms of constant dollars. This is the price farmers are paying for inflation.

