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> COMMITTEES: AGRICULTURE GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE: 101 FEDERAL BUILDING GREAT BEND, KANSAS 67530 AREA CODE 316 SW 3-5423 **Congress of the United States House of Representatives Mashington, D.C.** 20515

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CONGRESSMAN DOLE REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON FOR RELEASE: WEEK OF JUNE 26, 1967 BI-PARTISAN STUDY OF WORLD FOOD CRISIS RECOMMENDED

As a member of the House Republican Task Force on Agriculture which has been studying the world food crisis for the past two years, I have recommended the establishment of a bi-partisan U. S. World Food Study Commission.

In all the discussion taking place on the impending world food crisis there is a tendency to overlook the fact that the United States cannot play an effective tole in feeding a hungry world unless American farmers are assured they will be equitably rewarded for their productive efforts.

U. S. Farm Economy Must Be Protected

Present low farm prices, the alarming increase in agricultural imports, and the extent to which American agriculture was shortchanged by the Kennedy Round Trade Agreement at Geneva point up the urgent need for a penetrating inquiry into all aspects of the approaching world food shortage. Indeed, current national problems of inadequate farm income, low farm prices, reduced markets, and lack of effective import controls must be given major consideration in any programs this nation may devise and implement to help meet world food needs. Today's low farm prices, further aggravated by a deluge of agricultural imports that usurp vital markets, threaten the future of our productive capability. Consequently, we cannot afford to rush blindly into a gigantic feed-the-hungry-world project.

Coming Hunger Crisis Requires Careful Study

Because of these conditions, I urge the immediate establishment of a bi-partisan U. S. World Food Study and Coordinating Commission to evaluate the present and future food needs of the United States and to suggest the manner in which we can best plan our agricultural productivity and technical assistance to food-deficient countries.

The experience of World War II, when full industrial and agricultural production was accompanied by domestic food rationing, should have taught this nation that its ability to produce its own food and fiber must never again be jeopardized.

We must realize, too, that agriculture's technical know-how is concentrated, to a great extent, in one sector of the world, while the ugly, omnipotent threat of famine pervades the other. It is estimated that between now and 1980 these underdeveloped countries will add five times as many mouths to feed as will the developed countries.