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COMMITTEES:

AGRICULTURE
VERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE:

EAT 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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OTTAWA STEVENS
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PRATT WALLACE
WICHITA

CONGRESSMAN DOLE REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON FOR RELEASE: WEEK OF NOVEMBER 5, 1967

LATEST USDA FIGURES ON FARM NUMBERS, INCOME ISSUED

Department of Agriculture economists have issued their latest documentation of declining farm numbers across the nation. The figures show that there were 4,097,000 farms in the United States in 1959. At the end of 1966, this number had declined to 3,252,000 -- a loss of slightly more than 20% in just seven years.

The trend toward larger farms, of course, continued as the number of farms with annual sales of over \$20,000 per year showed a sizable increase during the last few years.

The very small farms, with yearly receipts of less than \$2,500 got only 7% of the total farm income from the nation, yet they made up 43.4 percent of all farms.

The result of these figures, in terms of people instead of dollars, has been a dwindling population in the rural areas, a steady procession toward the metropolitan centers of untrained, unhappy would-be-workers looking for jobs that do not exist for persons with their backgrounds and experience. The depopulation of many rural areas, accelerated so much during the past seven years, represents more than anything else, human tragedy and dislocation. There is no such thing as a smooth transition from generations on the farm, to economic depression, to dislocation into an urban area.

AIR QUALITY ACT PASSED

By its unanimous passage of the Air Quality Act of 1967 last week, the House took a firm stand for paving the way toward solving the problems of air pollution in the United States.

The act calls for a joint State-Federal effort that will, hopefully, control emissions of poisonous pollutants into the atmosphere. Certainly without this action, the health of the people in most cities and industrial areas would have been jeopardized in just a few years.