

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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WICHITA, KANS., Jan. 24 -- Congressman Bob Dole, Republican candidate for the Senate seat being vacated by U. S. Senator Frank Carlson, today said the Johnson Administration promises little help for the farmer in 1968.

Speaking at the 18th annual convention of the National Association of Wheat Growers here, Dole said, "Even the President's State of the Union message offered little encouragement."

Noting the President did not propose relief for the farm cost-price squeeze, Dole said, "Once again, it looks like the farmer will pay the price for being too successful."

On the President's appeal to reduce federal expenditures, Dole cautioned, "While we must restore fiscal sanity to many 'Great Society' programs, the American farmer cannot continue to be made the scapegoat"

Dole, a ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee, said the strategic grain reserve proposal before the Congress is not a "dead" issue.

However, he said, "In our eagerness to improve farm income, we must insure that a reserve, if established, will not further depress prices."

Effective reserve legislation, Dole said, must:

- 1) provide a true reserve,
- 2) emphasize producer control of the reserve, and
- 3) set up an adequate release price mechanism on all government-held grain.

To improve farm income, Dole said the Administration can and should:

- * Provide advance payments to cooperators in the wheat program,
- * Require the Commodity Credit Corporation to pay first-year storage costs for wheat under loan as is done for other commodities,
- * Make every effort to expand exports under the Food for Peace Program,
- * Assure no wheat stocks owned or to be owned for the next two years by the CCC will be sold at less than parity, and
- * Endorse the Agricultural Fair Practices bill.