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FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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WASHINGTON, D.C., March 12 -- Congressman Bob Dole, a ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee, today urged all citizens -- urban and rural -- to take a look at the crisis in rural America.

In a statement in the House of Representatives, the Kansas Congressman said, "Agriculture is still one of this country's basic industries, and our agricultural economy is in trouble. This should be of concern to each citizen whether he lives in urban America or on a farm."

Pointing out Department of Agriculture statistics issued March 8 show a cut of \$1.9 billion in 1967 net income, Dole said, "Per farm, this means income dropped from an average of \$5049 in 1966 to \$4573 last year."

In Kansas, he said, the picture looks even worse.

"Caught in the vicious spiral of rising costs and falling commodity prices," Dole added, "1967 net farm income in Kansas dropped \$777 since 1966."

In addition, Dole said the USDA statistics for last year show three per cent fewer farms than in 1966.

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

- * Provide advance payments to cooperators in the wheat program;
- * Announce the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) will pay first-year storage costs for wheat under loan as done for other commodities;
- * Assure no wheat stocks owned by the CCC in the next two years will be sold at less than parity;
- * Endorse the Agricultural Fair Practices bill (H.R. 13541), and
- * Make every effort to expand farm exports under the Food for Freedom Act (P.L. 480).

"In this time of urban crisis," Dole said, "we must take the time and make the effort to remedy the equally serious crisis in rural America."