

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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DODGE CITY, Kans., April 16 -- Congressman Bob Dole today said the overriding issue for farmers is "Can rural America share fairly in an urban society?".

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Victory Electric Cooperative here, the Kansas Congressman said, "The answer must be a ringing 'yes'."

"However," he added, "it can only come into being if we understand the complex factors of our society and avoid the mistakes of the past."

Dole pointed out farm debt has doubled since 1960, reaching \$50 billion this year and that farm income dropped about \$2 billion in 1967 from 1966.

"The time has come for everybody -- urban and rural --to help create an environment enabling farmers to share equitably in the bounty they help create," he added.

Dole cited a series of factors contributing to low farm income including dumping of Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) stocks of grain and reduction of Food for Peace (P.L. 480) exports.

Calling for new leadership in the US Department of Agriculture, Dole said, "We need an end to the sacrifice of farmers' interests."

He added farmers also need:

- * Higher loan rates for food and feed grains;
- * USDA announcement that no CCC-owned grain will be sold at less than parity minus the certificate for wheat and the support payment for feed grains;
- * Use of P. L. 480 to the maximum consistent with self-help provisions, and
- * Assurance grains are sold competitively.

In conclusion, Dole said agriculture meets the following

"highest standards of business performance in the public interest":

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| *Abundant production; | * Increases in productivity; |
| *Ability to serve the nation in an emergency; | *Capacity to serve foreign policy by providing assistance to underdeveloped nations. |
| *Ability to earn dollars in export; | |