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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
AT THE DEDICATION OF THE
KANSAS HARD WINTER WHEAT STAMP
AUDITORIUM -- TABOR COLLEGE
HILLSBORO, KANSAS
FRIDAY, AUGUST 16, 1974

It is my pleasure to be here with you today and to join in this commemoration of the Centennial Anniversary of the introduction of hard red winter wheat in Kansas.

The commemorative stamp which the U. S. Postal Service officially introduces today, marking that centennial, is the third in a series of commemorative issues from the Postal Service, honoring rural America.

100 years ago, a small group of German speaking immigrants, mennonites from the Steppes of Russia, came to Kansas where their centuries long flight from religious persecution came to an end.

They found their freedom here. And they brought with them the strain of winter wheat -- Turkey Red they called it -- which has made of our State a prosperous granary for this country and for much of the hungry people of the world.

You tell an Easterner, or a city dweller, that Kansas grows over three hundred million bushels of wheat a year, and you are liable to get an unknowing grunt of acknowledgement, as if to say, "doesn't everyone?"

The answer of course, is no. No one else approaches our abundant capacity for production of wheat. And, without the few seeds those immigrants brought to Kansas a hundred years ago, and the industry, energy and just plain hard work of thousands who have labored in our wheat fields since, we wouldn't be able to boast of such staggering production totals now.

The stamp, designed by John Falter of Kansas, shows a wheat field extending to the horizon. It shows, in short, abundance. It shows the fruits of the labor of honest Kansans.

To those of us who were born and raised in this winter wheat country, it symbolizes the hard work and anxiety that goes into growing a crop starting with planting in September-October and lasting till harvest in June-July. This year the crop in my home county of Russell suffered from mosaic, which wiped out entire fields. And the farmer is helpless to protect against this threat. So this picture means even more to us. It evokes memories of success and disappointment to be sure, but always of hard work and the satisfaction that comes from it.

It is a symbol of what is a deep source of pride to me.

And though it is only a small reminder to the Nation, it represents an acknowledgment of the enormous contribution we Kansans make to our Nation and the world.

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