

THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1961

Congressman Bob Dole, Republican, Kansas, stated today he will vote against reporting the Administration's "Omnibus Farm Bill" today to the House.

Dole stated, "I am certain the 'Omnibus Bill', in its present form, will be passed by our Agriculture Committee and will go to the House for vote, perhaps next week. I understand many amendments will be offered, hence there is no assurance just what the bill will finally contain. I will not cast an affirmative vote until the bill can be studied in its final form. My vote on final passage will depend on what amendments are offered and adopted on the House floor. An attempt was made in the Committee to reduce wheat acreage 20%, under the new program and will be offered again when the bill is debated. Needless to say, I am opposed to such amendments as I was to the 10% cut now in the bill.

"The 'Omnibus Bill' now contains numerous programs, some good and some questionable. It provides for extension of the National Wool Act for five years, extension of the Great Plains Conservation Program for ten years; continuation of the School Milk Program, extension of the Agricultural Trade Development Act, commonly known as P.L. 480. The bill extends the Feed Grain Program for another year, amends various phases of the Agricultural Credit Act, and contains a temporary 1 year program for wheat. The obvious Administration strategy is to keep all these programs in a package rather than submit them on their individual merits.

"The present bill is, however, much better than the original Administration Bill as such undesirable features as National Marketing Orders, compensatory payments, quotas on all 256 agricultural commodities, transfer of legislative authority to the Secretary, and many other questionable features, have been stricken from the bill.

"The most important features in the "Omnibus Bill" as far as Kansas farmers are concerned are those extending the Feed Grain Program for another year and the provisions of the "temporary" Wheat Program for 1962. Departmental witnesses have indicated the 10% reduction will not materially affect the "surplus". In addition the bill obviously favors the 15-acre wheat producer and though the Secretary has indicated the price support would be around \$2.00 next year and though payments would be made for diverted acres, I can see no reason to launch into a 1-year program. Farmers have indicated to me they are willing to make the necessary adjustments but want and are entitled to a long-range program and too, there is a general feeling that this is a bad time to cut production in light of developments on the world scene."

Dole also stated he had voted for the 1-year Feed Grain Program early this year on the basis it would reduce the surplus, reduce government cost, and increase the farmers income. His present objection is that Secretary Freeman has given no indication how he intends to dispose of "certificate grain". Dole stated he felt Congress should withhold action on this program until assurances are received from the Secretary. Dumping of CCC stocks of feed grain could be disastrous to feed grain producers, the livestock and poultry industry, as well as those engaging in "handling, storage, and marketing of grain".

Dole concluded by stating, "You might say at this point I want to wait and see what the House and Senate does to this bill before it receives my stamp of approval.