

FROM THE OFFICE OF
CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS)

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Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) said he voted today against a House Agriculture Committee amendment to the feed grain bill which he charged, "would be most damaging to both wheat and feed grain producers of Kansas."

"I challenge the other Kansan on the House Agriculture Committee, Cong. Breeding, to tell the people how he voted," Dole said.

"Even this last minute political amendment was not enough to spring the Freeman farm bill from the House Agriculture Committee this morning and this left the Democrat majority with no choice but to delay further consideration of the measure until after the Easter recess," Dole said.

His reference was to an amendment, adopted 17 to 15 in Committee, which would permit the Secretary of Agriculture to exempt deficit production areas from the sharp acreage cuts which would be imposed upon farmers in other sections of the country under the Administration's mandatory feed grain program.

"This amendment," Dole charged, "was obviously designed to soften the opposition of Southern Democrats, who largely represent deficit areas, to the feed grain section of the farm bill. Their farmers would be virtually exempted from mandatory controls over their production while producers in Kansas and other Midwestern states would take it on the chin, with forced cutbacks of 20 percent on both their feed grain and wheat acreages.

"Wheat growers were looking toward the so-called deficit feed areas as prospective markets for feed wheat. There would be little opportunity to expand the use of wheat for feed in these areas under the amendment adopted today," Dole said.

Dole said that even after the feed grain amendment had been adopted it "was apparent that the Democrats lacked the necessary votes to report the bill out of Committee."

"To save face, the Committee leadership permitted postponement of further consideration of the farm bill until after the Easter recess, Dole said. "It seems rather strange that the Democrats now want to postpone consideration after meeting almost twice daily for several weeks, and with night sessions threatened if the bill was not reported out by this week-end.

"It appears Secretary Freeman and his forces are now in full retreat, perhaps realizing farmers will no longer tolerate controls of the Freeman-Cochrane variety.

"Action to delay consideration of the bill could well mark a turning point in the history of agricultural legislation," Dole concluded.

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