

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

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Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) said today the House Agriculture Committee will begin hearings on sugar legislation on May 15th. Dole, a member of this Committee expressed "deep disappointment that the Administration has not yet sent its recommendations on sugar legislation to Congress, with the result that domestic producers will now have to wait at least one more year before obtaining the increases in permanent sugar beet allotments which should have been allocated this year."

The Kansas Congressman noted that he had asked Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman several months ago when the Administration sugar proposal would be put forward. "Freeman's response was 'soon'," Dole said. "But, their recommendations have not been forthcoming. Now, with the present Sugar Act due to expire on June 30th Congress has no choice but to move ahead with hearings even in the absence of an Administration recommendation. Because of the time element, I doubt that anything more than a simple one-year-extension of the present law can be accomplished at this Session of Congress.

"Unfortunately, this means that sugar growers of Western Kansas and other sugar producing areas will have to wait at least another year for an increase in their permanent acreage allotments. It means processing plants which would be required to handle an increased out-put of sugar beets will not be built for at least another year. It means that acreage which could be diverted from the production of surplus crops to sugar which is one of the few domestic farm commodities in short supply will remain, for at least another year, in crops which contribute to the basic farm problem of over-production.

"I had believed, as many farmers did, that the Administration would come forward early in the year with a new sugar program which would permit domestic growers to make up the deficit in U.S. sugar supplies that was created when imports from Castro's Communist Cuba were cut. The Administration has again let down the American farmer."

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