

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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Cong. Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today charged the Kennedy Administration has apparently adopted a double standard in dealing with lobbying activities of federal employees designed to support or defeat legislation pending before Congress.

Dole stated that only yesterday action was completed on the nearly \$12-billion Independent Offices Appropriation Bill for 1963 for agencies, such as the Federal Trade Commission, Federal Power Commission, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and many others. Section 301 of this Bill specifically provides that no part of the appropriations contained in the act and other funds available for expenditure shall be used by any agency for publicity or propaganda purposes designed to support or defeat legislation pending before the Congress, Dole stated.

Dole indicated this section was a most proper and necessary one, but added, "It seems strange to me this same restriction should not apply to employees of the Department of Agriculture and related agencies. However when the \$5-billion plus Agriculture appropriations measure was considered on July 25 a similar amendment I offered would have prohibited the use of federal funds 'for propaganda purposes designed to support or defeat farm legislation pending before Congress' was defeated by a vote of 172 to 118."

Dole stated: "There is growing evidence the U.S.D.A. from top to bottom is more concerned with promoting pending legislation than administration of present agricultural programs or control of inter-departmental activities. More and more examples are coming to light which indicate many county A.S.C. Committees send out newsletters to farmers marked 'official business', and without postage, which are apparently primarily designed either to promote Kennedy-Freeman farm legislation or defend Secretary Freeman's mishandling of the Estes case.

"This is also being done at higher levels, the most recent example being a memorandum <sup>of July 24</sup> from Horace D. Godfrey, Administrator, A.S.C.S., to all state A.S.C. Committeemen and State Executive Directors, wherein Godfrey requests all A.S.C. employees read his memorandum which deals primarily with pending farm legislation before Congress and the Estes hearings being conducted in the House and Senate, particular emphasis designed to absolve Secretary Freeman and other high echelon U.S.D.A. employees in the Estes case. The memo also criticizes the press in the reporting of the Estes hearings before the McClellan Comm."

Dole concluded, "This is certainly not a partisan issue and it seems to me to be a concerted and well organized effort by the U.S.D.A. to 'brainwash and propagandize' A.S.C. officials on a state and county level as well as the farmers of rural America. I might agree the Kennedy-Freeman farm program needs a lot of selling and perhaps a lot of defending, but this should not be done at the expense of the taxpayers, and I feel it is hightime Congress makes clear its intent to treat all federal employees the same, not only to prohibit some of the present abuses but to protect the thousands of well intentioned U.S.D.A. employees who merely want to carry out their administrative responsibilities and not become involved in a tug of war over Freeman's pet legislation, the Estes case, and the many other controversial proposals now confronting the Department of Agriculture.

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