

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
244 House Office Building
Washington 25, D. C.

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) stated today a tentative, but partisan, agreement on farm legislation reportedly reached by House-Senate conferees would by 1964 reduce average wheat and feed grain prices to the lowest level since price controls were discontinued at the end of World War II.

Dole said the reported Conference agreement contains at least two "jokers". First of all the price support on corn in 1964 could presumably drop to 50 percent of parity, or approximately 80 cents per bushel. Secondly, under the multiple price wheat plan which would go into effect in 1964 approximately 15 percent of a farmer's wheat production would bring only 92 cents a bushel reflecting its feed value in relation to corn. It had been indicated earlier, and many Kansans who support some version of a multiple price wheat plan have been led to believe, that the portion of wheat sold as feed under this plan (approximately 15 percent) would bring \$1.40 per bushel.

"Assuming, Dole said, farmers would receive 92 cents per bushel for their "feed" wheat and \$1.95 to \$2.00 per bushel for the 85 per cent sold against certificates, the average, or "blend" price would only be \$1.78 and \$1.82 per bushel. In addition the farmer would have 20 percent fewer bushels of wheat to market in 1964 than in 1963, under the mandatory acreage cut envisioned in the proposed legislation. Income-wise, the wheat grower would take a double cut--both in the level of price support and in the volume of marketings."

Dole stated, "An additional feature would require farmers to take a 20 percent wheat acreage cut in 1964, and for all practical purposes the proposed 1964 wheat plan bears little resemblance to the so-called 'Domestic parity' or 'bushel' program long advocated by many wheat producers.

"The 1963 wheat and feed grain programs reportedly agreed upon by the Conferees would be acceptable, in my opinion. The 1963 package includes an extension of present feed grain programs and a voluntary wheat program similar to the one I suggested on August 13. These programs are voluntary ones but are to be tied together with legislation for 1964 in a last ditch effort by Democrats on the Conference Committee to "save face" for Secretary Orville Freeman. The voluntary programs for 1963 are, in my opinion, to be used as bait to trap farmers in 1964, with hastily conceived permanent mandatory programs not fully understood by anyone.