

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) stated today that he was hopeful Congress would adjourn this week end. However, the announcement by the leadership would probably not come until later today, or tomorrow. Dole said, "I have cancelled plans to attend meetings in Meade and Liberal, Kansas, however my wife, Phyllis, will attend both these functions, as well as a series of coffees in Garden City on Friday and Liberal on Saturday.

"Though my opponent may not feel any responsibility in the closing days of Congress, it is particularly important to be present in the House, for this is the time when efforts are made to slip through unsound legislation. A good example of this happened yesterday when the House considered, and nearly passed, a law relative to employment of children in agriculture."

Dole said, "Though proponents of the legislation said it was aimed at prohibiting exploitation of children of migrant workers, it was so loosely drawn the Secretary of Labor would have had the right to determine what employment farm boys and girls under 14 years of age might accept, if any. Sponsors of the bill admitted, for example, a farm boy or girl 11 years of age would be prohibited from even gathering eggs or milking cows for a neighboring farmer if he were paid for it, and that children between the ages of 12 and 14 could not be employed more than 25 miles from their home, and then written consent of their parents was required.

"To me," Dole said, "this bill is completely ridiculous as it would have applied to the Midwest. Thousands of farm youth and other children who work on farms during the summer would have been prohibited from doing so, and the net result would be an increase in juvenile delinquency.

"We need to protect all children who are being exploited, but there are too many do-gooders in Congress who have no conception of agricultural areas other than from magazine articles. This administration is bent on control of everything and everybody, even to the point now of telling Kansas farm parents what jobs their children can do after school and during summer vacation. Apparently the social planners want a nation of 'shirkers' instead of 'workers'.

"If debate on the bill is resumed this week, I have an amendment drafted which would exempt Kansas farm youth and other young people employed on Kansas farms during school vacations from the provisions of this 'screwball' legislation.

"Again, let me say that if some members were not willing to stay in Congress until the bitter end, we would be saddled with many measures ~~such~~ ^{such} as this."