

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
AT THE ANNUAL ROUND UP
100TH CENTENNIAL OF RED WHEAT
FT. HAYS EXPERIMENT STATION, HAYS
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 1974

IT IS MY PLEASURE TO BE HERE WITH YOU TODAY AND TO JOIN IN THIS **COMMEMORATION** OF THE CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE INTRODUCTION OF HARD RED WINTER WHEAT IN KANSAS.

YOU TELL AN EASTERNER, OR A CITY DWELLER, THAT KANSAS GROWS OVER THREE HUNDRED MILLION BUSHELS OF WHEAT A YEAR, AND YOU ARE LIABLE TO GET AN UNKNOWING GRUNT OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT, AS IF TO SAY, "DOESN'T EVERYONE?"

THE ANSWER OF COURSE, IS NO. NO ONE ELSE APPROACHES OUR ABUNDANT CAPACITY FOR PRODUCTION OF WHEAT. AND, WITHOUT THE FEW SEEDS THOSE IMMIGRANTS BROUGHT TO KANSAS A HUNDRED YEARS AGO, AND THE INDUSTRY, ENERGY AND JUST PLAIN HARD WORK OF THOUSANDS WHO HAVE LABORED IN OUR WHEAT FIELDS SINCE, WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO BOAST OF SUCH STAGGERING PRODUCTION TOTALS NOW.

THIS HARD WORK STARTED MANY DECADES AGO. IT STARTED JUST OVER 100 YEARS AGO. AT THAT TIME A SMALL GROUP OF GERMAN SPEAKING IMMIGRANTS, MENNONITES FROM THE STEPPES OF RUSSIA, CAME TO KANSAS WHERE THEIR CENTURIES LONG FLIGHT FROM RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION CAME TO AN END.

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THEY FOUND THEIR FREEDOM HERE. AND THEY BROUGHT WITH THEM THE STRAIN OF WINTER WHEAT -- TURKEY RED THEY CALLED IT -- WHICH HAS MADE OF OUR STATE A PROSPEROUS GRANARY FOR THIS COUNTRY AND FOR MUCH OF THE HUNGRY PEOPLE OF THE WORLD.

THAT HARD WORK HAS TAKEN MANY FORMS, LIKE THE RESEARCH AND EXPERIMENTATION THAT HAS GONE ON AT THIS EXPERIMENT STATION. THIS YEAR, THE WHEAT CROP OVER MUCH OF KANSAS SUFFERED FROM MOSAIC, INSECTS AND OTHER NATURAL PESTULENTS. FARMERS ARE STILL LARGELY HELPLESS TO PROTECT AGAINST THESE THREATS. SO THE EFFORTS HERE ARE ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT IN GIVING FARMERS MORE PROTECTION.

TO THOSE OF US WHO WERE BORN AND RAISED IN THIS WINTER WHEAT COUNTRY THIS COMMEMORATION SYMBOLIZES THE HARD WORK AND ANXIETY THAT GOES INTO GROWING A CROP STARTING WITH PLANTING IN SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER AND LASTING TILL HARVEST IN JUNE-JULY. SO THIS PICTURE MEANS EVEN MORE TO US. IT EVOKES MEMORIES OF SUCCESS AND DISAPPOINTMENT TO BE SURE, BUT ALWAYS OF HARD WORK AND THE SATISFACTION THAT COMES FROM IT.

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IT IS A SYMBOL OF WHAT IS A DEEP SOURCE OF PRIDE TO ME.
AND THOUGH IT IS ONLY A SMALL REMINDER TO THE NATION, IT
REPRESENTS AN ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE ENORMOUS CONTRIBUTION WE KANSANS
MAKE TO OUR NATION AND THE WORLD.