



# NEWS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON, April 21--Rep. Graham Purcell (D-Texas) said today that Congressmen from agricultural areas would do all they could for farmers regardless of the outcome of the May 21 referendum on wheat controls.

The Congressman is chairman of the Wheat Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee. He spoke on the radio program "What's the Issue?" (MBS) produced by the Chamber of Commerce of the United States. The program is broadcast nationwide 3:05 to 3:30 Sunday afternoons.

Statements have been made generally, Rep. Purcell said, that if farmers reject the Administration's wheat program there would be no new legislation.

Two Republican members of the House Agriculture Committee speaking on the same program agreed with Rep. Purcell that farmers in any event would get help from their Congressmen. Rep. Delbert L. Latta (D-Ohio) said, "That's a proper approach." Rep. Robert Dole (R-Kans.) expanded further:

"I think that Mr. Purcell has pointed out the true theory of a referendum. In other words, you trot out something to the farmer, if it's not satisfactory, he has the right to reject it. Then it's our obligation in Congress, I think, to come back with something else and not to leave the wheat producer as a lone ranger on the horizon."

Rep. Purcell said, however, that "I think we learned last year that the chances of us getting a major program passed late in the summer this year will be most difficult, basing our judgment upon the activity of the Congressmen from the city areas of last year."

The controversial new program for wheat was authorized by Congress last year. It will go into effect with the 1964 crop if it is approved by at least two-thirds of the wheat producers who vote in the May 21 referendum. Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman favors a "yes" vote. The American Farm Bureau Federation is campaigning for a "no" vote.

Rep. Dole said that under the Administration's program the Secretary of Agriculture would set a national wheat quota each year. He would then determine the acreage to produce this quota and issue marketing certificates to wheat farmers showing how many bushels of wheat they could sell. On the 80 per cent of production used for domestic purposes, the farmer would get \$2 per bushel in 1964. On the balance, he would get about \$1.30 a bushel.

Rep. Purcell said, "I think the fundamental issue of the wheat referendum is the price of wheat for 1964. This will determine the income for rural families in the wheat area and the level of business activity in the rural towns across the country in 1964. The direction of the wheat program is not actually involved, since the program is most respects is like the program which has been in effect for over 25 years in our country."

Rep. Dole disagreed. "We have a battle of philosophy," he said, "whether we accept...so-called supply management program or whether the wheat farmer shall be treated like other farmers and be entitled to a voluntary program."

The proposed program discriminates against the small, 15-acre wheat grower, Rep. Latta said. He estimated that income for a 15-acre Ohio wheat grower would be cut from \$1,200 to \$693 under the program, because of acreage cuts. Proportionately, he said, acreage for larger growers would not be cut as drastically. He also explained that the farmer with less than 15 acres of wheat will have to sign up at least 7 days prior to May 21 in order to vote.