

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

COMMITTEE:
AGRICULTURE

DISTRICT OFFICES:
ROOMS 210-211
FEDERAL BUILDING
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS

BOX 31
RUSSELL, KANSAS

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C.

COUNTIES:
BARBER HODGEMAN RAWLINS
BARTON JEWELL RENO
CHEYENNE KEARNEY REPUBLIC
CLARK KINGMAN RICE
CLOUD KIOWA ROOKS
COMANCHE LANE RUSH
DECATUR LINCOLN RUSSELL
EDWARDS LOGAN SALINE
ELLSWORTH MEADE SCOTT
FINNEY MITCHELL SEWARD
FORD MORTON SHERIDAN
GOVE NESS SHERMAN
GRAHAM NORTON SMITH
GRANT OSBORNE STAFFORD
GRAY OTTAWA STANTON
GREELEY PAWNEE STEVENS
HAMILTON PHILLIPS THOMAS
HARPER PRATT TREGO
HASKELL WALLACE WICHITA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
October 1, 1963

The following is the text of a telegram sent to President Kennedy late last night from the following Congressmen: Bob Dole (R-Kansas); Albert Quie (R-Minnesota); Don Short (R-N. Dak.); Garner Shriver (R-Kansas); Joe Skubitz (R-Kansas), Bob Ellsworth (R-Kansas), Don Brotzman (R-Colorado), Catherine May (R-Wash.); Ben Reifel (R-S. Dak.) Odin Langen (R-Minn.). Congressman Bob Dole stated in releasing the text of the telegram, "Many of us from wheat-producing areas sincerely feel we are entitled to know the facts before being requested to take a position either for or against sale of wheat to Russia or any satellite nation."

The Honorable John F. Kennedy
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D. C.

September 30, 1963

Recognizing the great interest in and significance of the current proposal to sell U.S. wheat to the Soviet Union, we desire clarification of pertinent details concerning such a transaction and the probable ramifications should you make an affirmative decision.

Have any representatives of the Soviet Union or other communist nations recently contacted our government, either directly or indirectly, with reference to purchase of wheat or other U.S. agricultural commodities? If so, in what quantity and upon what terms and for what price?

Has the long range effect of such a transaction on our foreign policy been considered? What will be our policy toward Red China, North Korea, North Viet Nam, and Cuba in the event any of these nations should hereafter offer gold or dollars for wheat or other U.S. farm commodities?

In the event of a U.S.-Russian wheat transaction, what diplomatic pressures could our government apply to free world nations wishing to step up trade with Cuba or other communist nations. Will such sales to Russia impair the present policy of containment in Cuba?

October 1, 1963

-2-

Another vital factor in your decision involves the current and projected status of the world wheat market. Secretary Freeman has pointed out that Soviet Russia cancelled many of its export commitments and that outside the U.S. there are but a few substantial sources of wheat in the world. In view of Soviet and European shortages, therefore, there appears a serious question whether our nation could export any more wheat to Russia than to the free world. If this be so, exporting wheat to free world countries would seem an obvious choice.

Will transshipment from Russia to Cuba of any U.S. wheat purchased, or its by-products be permitted?

Finally, we trust the legal aspects of such a sale to Russia--such as the Johnson Act on export credits, the Webb-Pomerene Act on export assistance, Public Law 480 which prohibits soft currency sales, barter and government-supported dollar sales to Russia, and the Latta Amendment to the Agricultural Act of 1961 expressing congressional policy against a subsidized sale to Russia--will be fully considered.

As Representatives of wheat producing areas, we shall appreciate answers to the questions raised. Without specific information, it is difficult for us and the many farmers we represent to make a proper appraisal.

BOB DOLE
AL QUIE
DON SHORT
GARNER SHRIVER

JOE SKUBITZ
BOB ELLSWORTH
DON BROTZMAN
CATHERINE MAY

BEN REIFEL
ODIN LANGEN