

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Liberal, Kansas - Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans.) made the following statement at a Republican rally in Liberal, Kansas: "I am encouraged but not surprised with statements and reports recently made by Department of Agriculture officials, including Secretary Freeman, indicating widespread support for a voluntary wheat program."

"Farmers have always indicated they favor voluntary participation rather than a program involving mandatory supply management. It is equally significant that a voluntary approach has the support of leading farm organizations."

"I joined 19 Republican House Members in introducing a voluntary wheat and feed grain program on May 23, 2 days after the Administration 1964 wheat program was defeated in the May 21 referendum."

"Our bill applies to wheat, corn, grain sorghums, barley, and at the discretion of the Secretary- oats and rye. Main features briefly are: 1. It would be voluntary. Price support and diversion payments would be available only to participants in the program, and apply to 1964 and subsequent crops. 2. Would require land retirement and conservation as a condition of eligibility for program benefits. 3. It would use payment in kind for making diversion payments. 4. Would be based on a market economy. 5. It would permit extension of Conservation Reserve contracts on a bid basis. 6. It would provide authority to take action before the U. S. Tariff Commission when any agricultural commodity (beef, for example) is suffering from excessive imports. The provision would be of great value to U. S. Livestock growers. 7. After the present surpluses of wheat and feed grains had been reduced to a 'normal supply', price supports on wheat and feed grains would be set on the designated grains at 90 percent of the previous 3-year market average."

"After a request on October 11, Kenneth Birkhead, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture informed me by a letter dated October 31, 1963, that no USDA report has yet been made on my bill or any similar one, and therefore Secretary Freeman's statement in Salina, Kansas on September 18, that my bill is 'unworkable and costly, and would add to our surpluses' was neither realistic nor factual, but was strictly political, and made to ~~mis~~ mislead Kansas farmers."