

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

244 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
CAPITOL 4-3121, EXT. 2715

COMMITTEE:
AGRICULTURE

DISTRICT OFFICE:
210 FEDERAL BUILDING
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67501

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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DEC 4 1963

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans) today offered an amendment to the Cotton Bill being debated on the House floor which would provide a voluntary wheat and feed grain program. "I am not optimistic about the possibility of the amendment being adopted because of Secretary Freeman's 'wait until next year' attitude. The amendment offered adopts the principal provisions of the voluntary program introduced by 20 House members, May 23, two days following the wheat referendum. This will be an opportunity to point out again the desirability of adopting a voluntary wheat program," Dole said.

Dole pointed out that under the rules of the House an amendment to a pending bill must be "germane" to it...that is, it must be related in some manner as laid down in the precedents established by the House itself over many years.

"Ordinarily," he said, "during the debate on a cotton bill, an amendment dealing with wheat and feed grains would be held to be non-germane. A member of the House seeking to improve the welfare of grain farmers ordinarily can't attach an amendment of this nature to a cotton bill. Ordinarily, that is! Ordinarily, cotton bills don't repeal feed grain laws.

"Yesterday," Dole pointed out, "a point of order was lodged against the committee report by Representative Gross of Iowa on the grounds that the bill did not repeal a number of laws dealing with feed grains. That point of order was overruled, thus leaving the clear implication that it does repeal these laws.

"Since the Cotton Bill does contain provisions dealing with feed grains," Dole said, "the rule of germaneness, which would ordinarily be a procedural block to a grain amendment to a cotton bill, is not applicable; hence the amendment will be to the same section of the bill which purportedly repeals these feed grain laws."

Dole added, "The approach of the 20 Republican members is voluntary and would provide price support and diversion payments only to participants in the program, and would be based on a market economy."