

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

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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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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
April 9, 1964

The following is the text of a letter written to Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman by Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas).today:

Honorable Orville L. Freeman
Secretary of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Washington 25, D.C.

Dear Secretary Freeman:

As you know, early this morning the House passed the Cotton-Wheat bill under procedure which deprived interested members of the right to discuss the measure, and even more important, deprived many of us of the right to offer constructive amendments. Under this most unusual procedure the Cotton-Wheat bill, directly affecting millions of farmers, was passed, but only by a narrow margin. I honestly believe that interested House members from wheat producing areas were denied the customary privilege of fully exploring all ramifications of the legislation and the opportunity to make adequate legislative history which would aid administration of the program. It is also my belief the procedure used, while apparently serving the Administration's purpose, may have caused the bill loss of considerable support.

When President Johnson signs the Cotton-Wheat bill, wheat farmers will have a program in 1964 and 1965 which will yield them some \$200-million less income per year than they received in 1963.

It is important, therefore, that you, as Secretary of Agriculture, now take immediate administrative steps to maintain farm income for wheat at the 1963 level. In this regard I urge that two steps be taken immediately:

1. The release price for domestic sales of surplus wheat should be increased from 105 percent of the support price plus carrying charges, to 115 percent. There has been virtually unanimous agreement between farm organizations and in the Wheat Subcommittee that this step should be taken. There is absolutely no question that the Secretary has the authority to do so. Section 407 of the Agricultural Act of 1949 is the legal basis for this action and it should be utilized. If the release price and domestic sale of wheat is increased the market price will be strengthened by

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10 to 15 cents per bushel. I believe all farmers would support this action.

2. Immediately announce diversion payment rates at the maximum level allowed in the law, both for the mandatory 10 percent cut and for the additional 20 percent cut authorized in the bill.

Kansas farmers cannot afford to idle valuable wheat acreage for \$5-\$8 per acre. Under Section 339 of the Food and Agriculture Act as amended by the new farm bill the Secretary can make diversion payments at a rate up to 50 percent of normal yield times the county support price.

If the maximum rates are put into effect the complier will receive additional income and the market price will be further strengthened.

In addition to these two steps, I would again call your attention to the possibility of raising the value of the export certificate from 25 cents per bushel to some higher figure as would be authorized by Section 107 (2) of the Agricultural Act of 1949 as amended by the new bill.

There are other features of the bill which have not been clarified, however, perhaps the one of greatest importance to Kansas farmers relates to the special one million acre reserve authorized to be created by Section 334 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 as amended by the new bill. With 20 percent of the allotted acres, Kansas farmers are entitled to immediate assurance there will be no additional loss of acreage under this section by transfer of acreage to other states. Much has been said about maintaining the farmers' income and implementation of my suggestions, such as outlined, would help reduce loss of income to Kansas farmers.

You will recall our telephone conversation on Friday, March 27, concerning these matters, in hopes recommendations could be made prior to enactment of the Wheat-Cotton bill. I am still most interested and will be happy to discuss all or any of these items with you or Mr. Edwin Jaenke, Associate Administrator, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, at your convenience.

Sincerely yours,
s/ Bob Dole

BOB DOLE, M.C.