

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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FOR RELEASE: May 13, 1964

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) stated today the so-called "Voluntary Certificate Wheat Plan" may favor wheat producers in Texas and other other early harvest areas, to the tune of between 50 cents and \$1.00 per bushel.

Dole explained, "Under present law, the price support level will not change until July 1, and is presently \$1.82 per bushel. On July 1, under the newly enacted program, the support price will drop to \$1.30 per bushel and the market will no doubt drop a like amount.

"This in effect means," Dole said, "that Texas wheat producers harvesting now, or who will be in the near future, will gain a tremendous advantage. The Department of Agriculture reports that the cash market price Monday, May 11, on number one hard red winter wheat at Fort Worth, Texas, was \$2.50 to \$2.60 a bushel. The law will permit Texas wheat producers, and others in areas of early harvest, who are in compliance with provisions of the 1964 program to receive the present high market price and in addition diversion payments of between \$5.00 and \$8.00 per acre as well as 'certificates' valued at 70 cents per bushel for 45% of normal production, and certificates valued at 25 cents per bushel for 45% of normal production. In other words Texas and other Southern wheat producers will receive between 50 cents and \$1.00 more per bushel than Kansas farmers. This may explain the big push and White House pressure to enact the 'Wheat-Cotton bill!'"

Dole added, "From now until July 1 the Department of Agriculture has established a 'transition' plan whereby certain wheat processors will be able to purchase domestic food certificates at only 18 cents a bushel. Even though the government will be paying Texas and other early harvesters. 70 cents a bushel, only 18 cents will be recaptured from processors.

"Wheat farmers in Kansas and other later harvest areas, and the general taxpayer are discriminated against under present regulations governing administration of the new Wheat-Cotton law. Perhaps those who were so intent on ramming the program through Congress will want to explain this most unusual windfall."