

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
September 21, 1964
Washington, D. C.

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SEP 21 1964

Hutchinson- Cong. Bob Dole stated today the biggest single question in the minds of those attending the State Fair is Reapportionment. Kansans, particularly those in rural area, are beginning to fully understand the possible consequences if the U. S. Supreme Court decision of June 15 should be enforced in Kansas. They should also realize that this Administration ~~is~~ seeking to quietly sidetrack legislative action by Congress and that the Democrat platform adopted in Atlantic City last month, completely ignored the issue.

The Court ruled on June 15, that seats in both houses of bicameral state legislatures must be apportioned strictly on the basis of population. "This decision will be the beginning of the end", Dole stated, "of the ancient concept of checks and balances in our representative system of government, if not halted by congressional action. It would eliminate the practice of nearly two centuries wherein one house was generally based on population and the other on geography and tradition. The Court has long acknowledged that the two house system, was proper in that it would insure mature and deliberate consideration of, and prevent precipitate action on, proposed legislative measures, but on June 15, the Court majority ruled the bicameral system, if it survives, must survive on a strict population basis.

If this decision were implemented in Kansas, our 1st Congressional District, which now has 59 State Representatives in Topeka, would have perhaps as few as 33. I do not contend rural Kansas should dominate the Legislature, as there should be "balance". This "balance", however, was, in my opinion, achieved earlier this year by apportionment of the Senate based on population, and the Kansas House so that every county has one representative and the more populous counties additional members.

A bill identical to one I introduced, proposing a Constitutional Amendment, provides that "Nothing in the Constitution of the United States shall prohibit a state having a bicameral legislature from apportioning the membership of one house of its legislature on factors other than population", may be considered by the House in the next ten days but chances of it receiving the necessary 2/3 vote are doubtful since this Administration is not supporting the measure.

In my opinion this is the most important legislation Congress has considered and action must not be delayed until next year even though this is an election year and members are anxious to campaign for re-election.