

RELEASE TO IDA MAE

July 27, 1966

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans) indicated that the Johnson Administration has yielded to Congress in the dispute over watershed projects. Dole stated that Administration officials, including the President, are objecting to the House and Senate Committees on Agriculture approving small watershed developments proposals even though the Committees have been doing this since the Watershed Act was passed in 1954.

Congressman Dole first called this matter to the attention of the Congress on June 23. Following this, the House Committee on Agriculture, of which Dole is a member, held hearings on July 11 in an effort to break the log jam. The Administration still insists the law be changed; therefore, the release of 56 projects to the Committee for action represents only a temporary retreat. Administration officials indicate that next year attempts will be made to eliminate the right of Congressional review.

"It should be made clear," Dole stated, "this is not a partisan matter. The question involved is whether the executive or the Congress should have the final word on watershed projects. The Chairman of our Committee, a Democrat, Congressman Harold Cooley of North Carolina, bitterly opposes the efforts by the Administration and has called the action 'a grab for power by President Johnson.'"

Three of these projects are in Kansas. They are the Irish Creek, Mission Creek, and North Black Vermillion.