

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

243 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE 202
225-2715

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE:
210 FEDERAL BUILDING
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67501

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

COUNTIES:

BARBER	HODGEMAN	RAWL
BARTON	JEWELL	RENO
CHEYENNE	KEARNY	REPUB
CLARK	KINGMAN	RICE
CLOUD	KIOWA	ROOKI
COMANCHE	LANE	RUSH
DECATUR	LINCOLN	RUSSE
EDWARDS	LOGAN	SALIN
ELLIS	MEADE	SCOTT
ELLSWORTH	MITCHELL	SEWA
FINNEY	MORTON	SHERI
FORD	NESS	SHERI
GOVE	NORTON	SMITH
GRAHAM	OSBORNE	STAFF
GRANT	OTTAWA	STANI
GRAY	PAWNEE	STEVE
GREELEY	PHILLIPS	THOM.
HAMILTON	PRATT	TREGG
HARPER		WALL
HASKEL		WICHI

WASHINGTON, D. C.
August 20, 1966

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MONDAY, AUGUST 22, 1966

WHEAT PRODUCERS NEED ASSURANCES

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) said in a speech delivered in the House of Representatives today that most Kansas wheat producers feel that the recent 32% wheat acreage increase for 1967 is no guarantee of greater profits. If the price drops, they say, it will be the wheat producer who takes the risk and plants additional acres at great expense, who will stand to lose money.

"In my opinion," Dole said, "Secretary Freeman should assure farmers here and now that there will be no efforts by the United States Department of Agriculture to control the market price. There should be no "dumping" stocks of wheat held by Commodity Credit Corporation or any arbitrary cutback in the Food for Peace program. For cooperators in 1967, price support loan will be 1.25 per bushel, and wheat marketing certificates will be issued on about 520 million bushels. This is only about 1/3 of total anticipated production. Therefore, on the other two-thirds of the 1967 crop, they will get only what the market offers or the government loan of \$1.25 a bushel. It could mean a loss for many farmers to produce additional wheat, and many of them may plant only a portion of their allotments.

If the USDA lays its cards on the table, farmers will cooperate, but they have every right to be skeptical." As an example, Dole charged that wheat producers should have received approximately \$180 million more from the 1965 wheat crop.

Dole pointed out that as late as October 27, 1965, The Wheat Situation (an official United States Department of Agriculture publication) stated: "Total disappearance in 1965-66 is placed at somewhat over 1.4 billion bushels with carry-over stocks on June 30, 1966, now estimated at 750 million bushels."

"According to the Stocks of Grains in All Position Report, issued by USDA on July 25, 1966, the actual carryover was 536 million bushels -- 214 million bushels less than forecast earlier. In October of 1965, the wheat price was \$1.35 a bushel. By July of 1966, when the real figures became available, the price of wheat had jumped to \$1.74 a bushel -- an increase of 39¢ a bushel. From the 1965 crop, farmers sold 1.2 billion bushels of wheat. There is no question that if

(over)

the true demand figures had been made available to farmers and others, all wheat growers (cooperators and non-cooperators alike) would have received at least 15¢ a bushel more for their crop, or about \$180 million, or between \$30 and \$40 million for Kansas wheat producers.

"If the wheat farmer is expected to risk his time and money to meet growing foreign demand, USDA officials should be expected to cooperate with him -- not conspire against him," Dole concluded.