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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans) stated today that there are rumors circulating around Capitol Hill that Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman may be on his way out. There is some speculation that Freeman may become Attorney General to replace Nicholas Katzenbach, who yesterday was named Under Secretary of State. Without question, Secretary Freeman's popularity is at a low ebb throughout the country and particularly in the Midwest where Democrats are struggling to hold seats in Congress picked up in 1964. In Iowa, for example, Freeman's popularity is considerably lower than President Johnson's and, rightly or wrongly, a great majority of farmers, in both parties, are convinced that Secretary Freeman was behind the efforts to blame farmers for inflation earlier this year. Freeman's remarks in New York City on April 1 this year that he was "pleased" to see farm prices go down started the initial revolt against him and his policies. Freeman's actions to control farm prices by dumping surplus stocks of wheat and feed grains on the market, his efforts to break the cattle market by going along with export quotas on cattle hides, and his recommendation to Secretary McNamara that the Defense Department reduce pork purchases have all added to growing discontent.

Historically, a Secretary of Agriculture has fought for better income for the American farmer. Many farmers now conclude that Freeman has become a secretary "against" agriculture rather than a secretary of agriculture.

Dole concluded that, as far as he could determine, not a single Democrat for major office in Kansas has mentioned Freeman's name. While talk of Freeman's leaving the U. S. Department of Agriculture is still in the rumor stage, President Johnson must make the choice of whether to save Freeman or to attempt to save a number of Democrat seats in Congress.