

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

243 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE 202
225-2715

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE:
89 FEDERAL BUILDING
WICHITA, KANSAS 67201

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

COUNTRIES:		
BARBER	HOOVER	RAWLINS
BARTON	JEWELL	RENO
CHEYENNE	KEARNEY	REPUBLIC
CLARK	KINGMAN	RICE
CLOUD	KIOWA	ROCK
COMANCHE	LAMB	RUSH
DECATUR	LINCOLN	RUSSELL
EDWARDS	LOGAN	SAJNE
ELLIS	MEADE	SCOTT
ELLSWORTH	MITCHELL	SEWARD
FURNEY	MORTON	SHERMAN
FORD	NEE	SHERMAN
GOVE	NEXTON	SMITH
GRAHAM	OSBORNE	STAFFORD
GRANT	OTTAWA	STANTON
SMITH	PARTEE	STEVENS
SMITH	PHILLIPS	THOMAS
HAMILTON	PRATT	TREGG
HARPER		WALLACE
HASKEL		WICHITA

WICHITA, KANSAS
OCTOBER 1, 1966

FOR RELEASE AFTER 4 P.M.
OCTOBER 1, 1966

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans), at a meeting in Wichita Saturday afternoon with Governor William Avery, Senator Frank Carlson, Congressmen Chester Mize, Garner Shriver, Joe Skubitz, and the Republican candidate for Congress in the Second District, Larry Winn, charged that the Johnson Administration is engaged in a deliberate campaign to depress the market price of wheat. The meeting in Wichita was suggested by the Kansas members of Congress so that they might re-view with Governor Avery the crisis of inflation and the adverse impact Presi-dent Johnson's programs are having upon the people of Kansas.

Dole stated that Kansas wheat growers are feeling an economic squeeze from three directions. "Drought sharply reduced the 1966 harvest for many pro-ducers. Production costs are the highest ever. Now the pressure is being put on wheat prices.

"Within the last few days, the market price of a bushel of wheat has been hammered down by about 25¢. Leaks and rumors out of Washington by Sec-etary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman, and other Administration leaders, touched off the biggest collapse in wheat prices in many years.

"There was the published report that the U. S. Government had informed its embassies abroad that 25 percent less wheat will be available under foreign aid programs this year and that recipient countries should not be encouraged to ask for larger allocations. There has been no official confirmation of this, but the rumor is apparently widely accepted in trade circles."

Dole challenged Democrat candidates in Kansas to either protest the latest Administration action to depress wheat market prices or to state publicly they agree with Secretary Freeman's and President Johnson's efforts to blame farmers for inflation, ~~while~~ at the same time efforts are made to drive wheat prices down.

Dole said, "Secretary Freeman owes wheat growers of Kansas and the Nation a candid statement as to what government policy is with respect to wheat exports during the year ahead. He should make it clear now whether the U. S. intends to fulfill its wheat export commitments to India and other food-short countries of the world, or cut them back by the rumored 25 percent.

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D. C. 20540
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"Commodity Credit Corporation currently has 179 million uncommitted bushels of wheat in its inventory. This includes 56 million bushels of hard red winter wheat. Freeman could take a positive step toward strengthening wheat prices by announcing that this government-owned wheat will not be dumped into the market place in competition with producer sales during the year ahead.

"Mr. Freeman asked the farmers to increase their 1967 wheat acreage by about one-third in order to insure adequate supplies to meet domestic and foreign requirements. Now that the crop is being planted, does he propose to pull the rug out from under the wheat producer? The drastic decline in wheat prices during the last two weeks indicates he may just have that in mind," stated Dole.

Dole said that he had advised Secretary Freeman personally and by letter that wheat producers were entitled to assurances from him that he would not use government stockpiles or cutbacks in P. L. 480 shipments of wheat to depress domestic market prices.

Dole also pointed out that on August 24 he and Congressman Al Quie (R-Minn) had written to all the Senate Agriculture Committee members suggesting an amendment to prevent sharp cutbacks in P. L. 480 exports. "The drop in market prices the past 15 days indicates that such an amendment was needed, even though it was opposed by the Administration."