

from the office of
CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE

Friday, January 14, 1967

GREAT BEND-Congressman Bob Dole stated today that future aid ^{/food} shipments to India should include not only wheat and grain sorghums, but also should include wheat products, such as flour and bulgur.

U. S. wheat products, notably flour and bulgur, can be a very helpful part of U. S. food grain supplies made available to that country. There are certain economic and political advantages, however of having a reasonable quantity of wheat products in the program that appear to be in the United States national interest. Every effort should be made to achieve such a program.

Inclusion of flour and bulgur would stimulate the milling industry throughout America. In Kansas, for example, five mills have closed their doors in the past three years. Closing of these mills has had an adverse effect on the economy in many Kansas counties including, Saline, Kingman, Harvey, Sedgwick and Cowley.

Under the present arrangement our country ships wheat to India and Indian millers prepare the wheat products. "Since U. S. aid programs are costly to the American taxpayer (almost one billion dollars in 1966), some preference should be given to U. S. millers," Dole said.

There are many advantages of including wheat products in the India program. Products are ready for immediate consumer use; they are bagged and can be more quickly unloaded at ports and distributed into consumer channels; they can be enriched or prepared to meet specific nutritional needs of groups of the population.

"These advantages of including United States wheat products in any future India program far outweigh Indian bureaucratic objections to receiving wheat products, in my opinion," Dole said.

The First District Congressman stated he will recommend to President Johnson and Secretary Freeman that a total of 500,000 tons of flour and bulgur be included in any long range India food aid program. For India it would represent less than 10% of the needed imports and for the U. S. it would help provide an orderly and badly needed product program.