

KANSAS WRAP ADMINISTRATION FARM POLICY

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The five Republican House members from Kansas introduced legislation today, calling on the Administration to stop its discriminatory activities against the American farmers and ranchers. In addition, the Resolution would direct the Administration, particularly the United States Department of Agriculture, and other federal agencies to employ every facility to improve farm prices in order to build a strong and viable market economy for agriculture. Members of the delegation, Congressmen Bob Dole, Chester Mize, Larry Winn, Garner Shriver, and Joe Skubitz, issued the following statement: "We feel compelled to offer this Resolution early in the Congress because it seems apparent that this Administration places a very low priority on the nation's agriculture. Last year the Administration used the farmer as a whipping boy for its inflationary policies. The Secretary of Agriculture continually depressed grain and livestock prices by dumping government-owned commodities on the market, while at the same time, the Administration's domestic fiscal policies pushed farm production costs to record heights.

"The Resolution can, and should, be supported by every Member of Congress, whether he represents a rural or urban District. Farm prices are now at only 77% of parity and the farmer is earning only about 60% as much as his city cousin. At the very time that the hungry world looks to us, this Administration is content that the American farmer receives less and less for his efforts."

The Kansas delegation charged that the policies of the Administration will cause net farm income to decline by at least 5% during 1967. The Resolution lists 10 specific reasons for the decline, some of which are as follows:

- (1) Inflationary domestic fiscal policies which have increased farm production costs 19% since 1952;
- (2) market price manipulation which has decreased prices received by farmers 6% since 1952;
- (3) dumping of huge quantities of grain upon the domestic market;
- (4) increasing imports of raw sugar, designed to lower market prices for U. S. sugar producers; and
- (5) stimulating increased production of wheat and feed grains without adequate price incentive.

Congressman Dole, a Member of the House Committee on Agriculture, indicated he will press for early hearings and encourage other Members of Congress to introduce similar resolutions. A somewhat similar resolution introduced by Senator George McGovern, a Democrat from South Dakota, was unanimously passed by the Senate last year and subsequently died in the House Committee on Agriculture. Dole added, "This is not a partisan matter, but one which affects the economy of not only the farmer, but all related industries and businesses."