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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans) stated that Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman, was not optimistic in forecasting an increase in the market price of wheat in the near future. Secretary Freeman appeared before the House Committee on Agriculture this morning to discuss agriculture generally and was asked by Dole if he could foresee an increase in the market price of wheat.

"While Freeman indicated he felt certain the market price would be substantially above the loan rate, he was neither specific nor optimistic, in my opinion," Dole remarked.

In response to another question from Dole about his proposed "farmer-to-farmer" program, which was enacted by the Congress last year, Freeman ~~said~~ indicated that the Department of Agriculture was reviewing it at present. Freeman said he felt ^{Dole's} ~~the~~ program showed "much promise" and that it would be implemented after careful study and review.