

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

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243 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE 202
225-2715

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE:
210 FEDERAL BUILDING
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67501

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

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SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
FEBRUARY 22, 1967

FOR RELEASE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON
FEBRUARY 22, 1967

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) was the principal speaker at the 25th National Rural Electric Cooperative Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco today. His topic was "Dreams and Realities for Rural Electrics in 1967", and more specifically, prospects in the 90th Congress for passage of the REA supplemental financing bill.

Dole stated that the REA supplemental financing bill will be at least as controversial this year as it was in 1966, for a number of reasons. "First," he said, "other demands upon the federal government, and its resources, are increasing; hence, any additional REA financing from federal sources will be hard to come by. In addition, investor-owned utilities have some fear about the financing proposal and certain bankers are opposed to creating an REA bank."

Dole emphasized that if a supplemental financing bill is to pass this year, certain factors must be considered.

1. Support in Congress from both political parties is a necessity.
2. 100 percent opposition from commercial power companies will endanger prospects of any bill being enacted.
3. Broad support, from groups of our citizens, is a necessity.
4. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association must adopt a flexible policy based both on the realities of the situation and on the realization that no one segment of this great industry can have the whole legislative cake.

Dole challenged those present to work with members of the House Agriculture Committee to develop, if possible, solutions or compromises to many of the problems which will certainly arise during the course of the hearings. Dole is a member of the House Committee on Agriculture and voted for the REA proposal last year. The bill failed on a 5 to 5 vote in the Subcommittee on Conservation and Credit.