

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

ANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE 202
225-2715

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE:
210 FEDERAL BUILDING
WICHITSON, KANSAS 67301

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

COUNTIES:
BARBER HODGEMAN RAWLINS
BARTON JEWELL RENO
CHEYENNE KEARNY REPUBLIC
CLARK KINGMAN RICE
CLOUD KIOWA ROOKS
COMANCHE LANE RUSH
DECATUR LINCOLN RUSSELL
EDWARDS LOGAN SALINE
ELLIS MEADE SCOTT
ELLSWORTH MITCHELL SEWARD
FINNEY MORTON SHERIDAN
FORD NESS SHERMAN
GOVE NORTON SMITH
GRAHAM OSBORNE STAFFORD
GRANT OTTAWA STANTON
GRAY PAWNEE STEVENS
GREELEY PHILLIPS THOMAS
HAMILTON PRATT TREGO
HARPER WALLACE
HASKEL WICHITA

WASHINGTON, D. C.

NOT FOR RELEASE UNTIL MONDAY
APRIL 3, 1967

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans) today led 75 Members of Congress in a two-hour "Special Order" in the House of Representatives to honor the 50th Anniversary of the Federal Land Bank System. Congressman Dole and Congressman Chester Mize (R-Kans) each requested that at the close of official House business, an hour be set aside for Members of Congress to make appropriate remarks for this occasion.

In his opening remarks, Dole stated: "Today's date was selected for this commemorative event because it was on April 3, 1917, that the process of chartering the twelve Federal Land Banks was completed." In outlining the achievements of the Farm Credit System during the past fifty years, Dole said, "Agriculture's forward march in the effort to produce an abundance of food and fiber for our growing population, as well as to meet increasing demands overseas for American farm commodities, has required larger and larger amounts of capital. In turn, therefore, agriculture's needs for credit have continually grown -- and will continue to expand in the foreseeable future. Our Nation has every right to be thankful that a sound, workable credit structure exists for financing agricultural production in the days and years ahead, when people the world over will battle the threat of food shortages."

Among those participating in the commemoration with Dole were: Congressman W. R. Poage (D-Tex), Chairman of the House Committee on Agriculture; Honorable George Mahon (D-Tex), Chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations; and Congressman Gerald Ford (R-Mich), House Minority Leader. Congressman Page Belcher of Oklahoma, ranking Republican on the Agriculture Committee stated: "The Federal Land Bank System is completing a fifty year success story and the Federal Land Bank of Wichita has carried well the distinction of being the original Bank. From its first \$5,000 loan to A. L. Stockwell of Larned, Kansas, the Wichita Bank now has 32,352 loans outstanding. These loans total over \$429.7 million."

Present in the House Visitors' Gallery for the "Special Order" were the Presidents of the twelve Federal Land Banks, members of the Federal Farm Credit Board and the Federal Land Bank Associations National Advisory Committee, and their wives. Congressmen from all parts of the country acknowledged the presence of Land Bank officials from their state and commented on the contributions of the Farm Credit System to the growth of agriculture in their districts. They praised the successful combination of agriculture, the financial community, and the Government in transforming capital investment into farm production and innovating many standardized practices in the field of credit today.

In concluding the event, Dole remarked, "It is indeed gratifying that so many members of the House have joined to voice their appreciation of the Land Banks, of the Farm Credit System, and most of all, of the farmers, growers, ranchers and all others engaged in agriculture. This is truly an hour of commemoration for American agriculture, an hour of honor to all farmers of our land."