

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
AREA CODE 202
225-2715

COMMITTEES:
AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

DISTRICT OFFICE:
101 FEDERAL BUILDING
GREAT BEND, KANSAS 67530
AREA CODE 316
SW 3-3423

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

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STATEMENT OF HONORABLE BOB DOLE (FIRST DISTRICT, KANSAS)
BEFORE THE AGRICULTURE SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON APPROPRIATIONS -- "FARMER-TO-FARMER" PROGRAM -- MAY 10, 1967

Mr. Chairman and members of the Committee, I welcome this opportunity to appear before this Subcommittee concerning appropriations for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and to express my views relative to the funding under Section 406 of Public Law 480 as it was amended in the last Congress.

From the time you received the President's 1968 budget some 14 weeks ago, world population has increased by 14 million, or about one million per week. Most of this increase has occurred in nations which are unable to produce sufficient food to meet even basic nutritional needs.

In spite of the continued food and population crisis, and an authorization of \$33 million in the Food For Peace Act of 1966, no request for funding Section 406 of Public Law 480 was included in the administrative budget for the Department of Agriculture for fiscal 1968 that is now before the Subcommittee.

Mr. Chairman, because of the great need in this area and the urgency of getting started as soon as possible, I recommend a modest sum be included in the U.S.D.A. budget for use in implementing a pilot program under Section 406 of Public Law 480. We all know that the Food For Peace program has been effective legislation. It will continue to have a great impact upon American agriculture, business and industry. It will also continue to be of immeasurable importance to the underdeveloped countries of the free world.

Section 406 of Public Law 480 is of special interest to me. Last year I introduced the amendment to the Food For Peace legislation that is commonly referred to as the "farmer-to-farmer" program. I believe this program is vital to the success of any technical assistance program that we carry out with underdeveloped nations. As you know, there is a big gap in these countries between the trained technicians of government or the colleges and universities and the tiller of the soil who actually produces food and fiber.

The program carried out by the Federal-State Extension Service here at home has made a significant contribution toward the rapid progress within the agricultural industry of this country. A similar effort can help do the same for other nations if we start now. Time is a real factor, and every delay means more

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U. S. dollars being spent on foreign food aid with a resulting strain on our own taxpayers.

The "farmer-to-farmer" program is a new program, and I realize that much ground work needs to be done. Much coordination in this case must be done with the Peace Corps and the Agency for International Development. However, the fact of the matter is that the needed planning and programming simply is not being done.

I have talked with top officials in the Department of Agriculture and in the Peace Corps. They favor the program for what it can accomplish in increasing food supplies in underdeveloped countries. It is essential that the necessary recruitment, training, orientation, and placement of qualified people be started so that on-the-farm work can be underway as quickly as possible. I believe we should set a goal for the training and placement of 100 practical technicians in one of the underdeveloped nations before the end of Fiscal Year 1968. This will give both your Committee and the Committee on Agriculture a chance to see what results can be expected prior to the expiration of Section 406 on December 31, 1968.

I am aware of the tight budget situation with which we are confronted. The financing of the Vietnam War is important and necessary, and we must support our fighting men there. However, in the long run, I believe we will avoid the expenditure of a great deal of money by using the "farmer-to-farmer" program in lieu of direct food shipments and other foreign aid financed by the U. S. Treasury.

Mr. Chairman, I ask that you give favorable consideration to my request for adequate funding of Section 406 of Public Law 480. Let us at least give this idea a fair chance to see if it will work. This matter is of vital importance, and time is especially valuable.

Thank you for the privilege of appearing before your Committee and having the opportunity to present this request.