

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS

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243 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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225-2715

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DISTRICT OFFICE:
101 FEDERAL BUILDING
GREAT BEND, KANSAS 67530
AREA CODE 316
SW 3-5423

DODGE CITY, KANSAS

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

FOR RELEASE AFTER 9 P.M.
MONDAY, JULY 10, 1967

Congressman Bob Dole, speaking to County Extension workers at the District I Summer Planning Conference tonight, stated that, in his opinion, American food aid would become our most powerful foreign policy instrument in the years ahead.

Congressman Dole said that P.L. 480, the Food For Peace program, should be used as an instrument to boost domestic prices, not depress them. At the same time, the Commodity Credit Corporation should perform a role in boosting farm prices, not restraining them. In this regard, he suggested that CCC adopt a new policy in regard to unrestricted domestic sales of grain. "The time has come, in view of our current inventory levels, that CCC make no unrestrictive domestic sales for less than 100 percent of parity, and if this policy is not implemented administratively, it should be implemented legislatively."

Dole emphasized that "U. S. food aid under the Food For Peace program should not be limited to a surplus disposal operation, but rather it should be structured on the purchase of food and food products in the market place the same as other products purchased under the U. S. foreign assistance programs. To achieve this, Congress should appropriate funds for food aid as it now appropriates funds for other foreign assistance programs. In addition, commodities to be shipped under food aid arrangements should be purchased through regular market channels.

"Such a program would be based on a free enterprise agriculture geared to a market system and provide the economic climate which would encourage American farmers to meet the challenge of a hungry world. There would be no need to use the CCC to finance such a program; there would be no reason to charge the Department of Agriculture for the cost of such a program. This would be a food-aid program based on what the people of recipient countries need and could use effectively. It would not be surplus disposal. It would be designed to meet humanitarian and foreign policy objectives of the United States.

"There is a crying need," Dole said, "to expand our technical assistance programs in developing nations. I am hopeful the Extension Service will play a key role in transferring American 'know how' and 'show how' to free world developing countries." Dole said the "farmer-to-farmer" program, an amendment he offered to the Food For Peace Act of 1966, could be of vital help in teaching the people of food-short free world countries how to increase agricultural production. "Many of these nations have the soil, the manpower, and the climate to produce enough food for their own needs. What they lack primarily is technical 'know how', which can be supplied at a small fraction of the cost of the food assistance programs. Even more important, or as important, is the need to ultimately develop commercial markets in these countries."