

WASHINGTON , D. C.
OCTOBER 31, 1967

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The battle still rages in the Livestock and Grains Subcommittee of the House Committee on Agriculture over the so-called "Johnson Administration grain reserve bill".

In today's action, two amendments offered by Congressman Bob Dole were accepted, and two others were defeated. One amendment accepted would raise the support price of wheat from \$1.25 to \$1.40 per bushel. Dole said this would insure farmers an increase of 15 cents per bushel, while on the other hand, there is nothing in the so-called "Purcell reserve bill" which would guarantee wheat producers additional income.

The second amendment offered by Dole, which was accepted, would require that the U. S. Department of Agriculture go through the regular appropriations process to fund the reserve bill, if it is enacted. Dole said this would mean the Administration would have to justify the cost of the program before they could make any expenditure of federal funds. Under the Administration bill, the program could have been funded by simply using Commodity Credit Corporation funds without going through the appropriations process.

Dole tried unsuccessfully to include cotton and noted that the Southern Democrat Congressmen who are so anxious to foist this bill upon the wheat and feed grains producers of America are violently opposed to including cotton. "My point was that it should include all price supported commodities," said Dole.

In another effort, Congressman Dole moved to table the bill, which would have had the effect of delaying further action. This motion failed.

Pg. 2

Deliberations will be resumed tomorrow morning at 10:00. Every indication is that if the bill passes, it could well be by a one vote margin. However, no one is predicting the outcome.