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STATEMENT OF  
CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE  
ON THE  
PRESIDENT'S FARM MESSAGE

February 27, 1968

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"The President's farm message for 1968 contains nothing new or startling.

"His seven-point plan "to bring new prosperity to rural America" is, for the most part, a rehash of existing programs.

"Two areas in which the President recommends new programs are the creation of a National Food Bank and to provide the farmer with new bargaining authority.

"The "National Food Bank" is the President's new title for a strategic reserve. In this area, at least some progress may be in the making as he does call for:

'...insulation of this food bank from the commercial market. The Secretary of Agriculture should not sell reserve stocks at less than parity adjusted for government payments.'

"Now, if the President can just convince his Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman on this one item, he will have accomplished more than the Republican members of Congress have been able to do. Other Republican members and I have repeatedly attempted to convince Secretary Freeman that any reserve bill must provide for insulation of government stocks from the market.

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"On the farmer's bargaining power, the President simply states that he is for it and asks the Congress to hold hearings during the present session to determine how it can be strengthened. He does not suggest a program.

"I regret to say the President's message on rural America contains little promise or hope for increasing farm income."