

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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WASHINGTON, D.C., March 11 -- Congressman Bob Dole today renewed his appeal for a review of the "costly and detailed" census of agriculture.

Pointing out the budget for the Bureau of the Census has steadily risen each year, Dole said, "The time has come to examine the census from an economy viewpoint."

In a statement on the House floor, the Kansas Congressman pointed out the President has requested \$43 million for the Bureau in 1969.

"That figure," Dole added, "includes \$3.2 million for 'preparatory work' for the next agricultural census."

The next census occurs in 1969.

In addition, he said the President has requested \$14.7 million for the Department of Agriculture's Statistical Reporting Service (SRS).

Noting a possibility of duplication, Dole quoted the President's definition of SRS as " 'providing official estimates on this nation's agriculture, including acreage, yield and production of crops, stocks and values of farm commodities, numbers and inventory values of livestock items'."

On February 29, the Kansas Congressman introduced a bill to prohibit questions of production, acreage, and operation and finances of farms in the agricultural census.

"Since then," Dole said today, "the mail I have received has been completely in support of the legislation."

"I hope," he explained, "enough interest can be generated on the proliferation of government inquiries and questionnaires probing into the private life and business affairs of our citizens to result in a hard-nosed review."

In his Feb. 29 statement, Dole said the proposed agricultural census for 1969 demands precise figures on the amount of irrigating water, fertilizer and other production methods and crop yields. He said the census also would require the farmer to disclose how much money he owes, how he finances his work and an equipment inventory.