

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
109 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE APRIL 22, 1968

WASHINGTON, D.C., April 22 -- Congressman Bob Dole today asked Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz to reconsider regulations forbidding certain employment of youth under age 16 in agriculture.

The labor regulations, which went into effect January 1, forbid hiring youth in 16 "hazardous occupations."

In a letter to Secretary Wirtz, Dole said, "Several occupations now restricted can be performed safely and adequately by persons under 16 after proper instruction."

The Kansas Congressman said these occupations include operating, driving or riding on a tractor over 20-horsepower, self-unloading wagon, power-driven combine, field baler and corn picker and operating a power-driven post-hole digger and saw.

Under the current restrictions, he said, "farmers are finding it increasingly difficult to accomplish necessary work."

In addition, Dole noted the regulations bar many youth from part-time work to help finance their educations.

"In many areas," he added, "there are no other part-time jobs available, and many youths will find themselves jobless in the summer months ahead."

The Kansas Congressman, a ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee, noted over 800,000 youth under age 16 are employed each year in agriculture. That figure, he added, represents a maximum of 25 per cent of the seasonal work force.

Dole noted he sent a similar letter to Wirtz April 3.