

FROM: OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE

WASHINGTON, D. C.
SEPTEMBER 18, 1968

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Congressman Bob Dole, 1st District, Kansas, yesterday sent a letter to Ray Fitzgerald, Department Administrator, State and County Operation, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. It read:

"I have been contacted by Messrs. T. G. Lewis, Kirby E. Clawson, and LaVerne C. Smith, recently suspended members of the Haskell County ASC Committee, relative to an appeal filed by them September 11, 1968.

"I hereby join these and other Haskell County residents in requesting the hearing be held in the county seat, Sublette. These men and other necessary witnesses will be required to pay considerable expenses if the hearing is held in Washington, D. C. Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated."

The unprecedented action of the Department of Agriculture in ousting the county committee triggered widespread concern among Haskell and area farmers, resulting in two public meetings. Farmers are backing the suspended committee and requesting a hearing before the Department of Agriculture be held in Sublette. This matter has attracted national news coverage.