

FROM: DOLE FOR SENATE HEADQUARTERS
603 Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas **CE 3-0541**

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Netawaka, Kansas.....Congressman Bob Dole, Republican candidate for the U. S. Senate, speaking at a Republican rally here last night said that while Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman has spent more money, some \$63.7 billion, than all his predecessors in that office combined, over 800,000 farms have been closed down for lack of resources and income.

Dole stated that Secretary Freeman's policy has been to depress farm income by releasing surplus stocks of wheat and feed grains on the market to drive down the market price. Dole pointed out that this year Freeman proposed a scheme called a "strategic grain reserve" program which, in effect, would have given Freeman even more power to drive prices even lower. "Fortunately, there were enough Democrats and Republicans in the House and Senate concerned about the American farmer to defeat the proposal. Those of us who voted against the so-called "grain reserve" did so because the Johnson Administration opposed amending the proposal to protect the farmer by restricting Freeman's right to dump surplus and also opposed my amendment to increase support prices."

In alluding to his opponent, Dole stated that there are some seeking office now attempting to mislead Kansas farmers about the Freeman-Johnson-Humphrey grain reserve proposal. "After 8 years of suffering because of Freeman policies, I am confident Kansas farmers will not be swayed by propaganda and distortion."

Dole stated that full prosperity in rural America depends upon full rural employment, fair farm prices, well distributed and challenging jobs, a balanced agricultural-industrial base in every county, and continued expansion of commodity exports and domestic consumption.

In conclusion, Dole said, "Failure for 35 years to solve the basic farm difficulties must not discourage the next Congress--- cannot discourage the next President---for Kansas, and much of America, depends upon the answers they must provide."