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FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE  
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FOR RELEASE UPON PRESENTATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. Nov. 19, 1970 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.), in a statement on the Senate floor, today urged passage of the Conference Report for the Agricultural Act of 1970.

Dole emphasized, "The farmer will be the one who pays for further delay. The wheat farmer is already paying, as some could have utilized the set-aside provisions if the Conference Report had been passed prior to October 1."

"Some members may wish to use the farmer as a political football, but to tinker and delay would be to render a disservice to agriculture."

"This bill could open the door of opportunity for the farmer," Dole said. "The present farm program provides such close control that a producer has no opportunity to expand and improve his operation...The Conference Report we consider today will provide the farmer that very opportunity."

Dole warned, "In the event this Conference Report is not approved, the farm provisions of the Agricultural Act of 1938, as amended -- the program under which we were operating in 1958 -- would be in effect. The warehouses would soon bulge with surplus productions and the cost of the farm program would skyrocket."

The Kansas Senator said that extending the present program would not provide loan minimums for wheat and feed grains, as the Conference Report, and this alternative would face stiff opposition in the House.

Dole reported that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) has asserted that the proposed Agricultural Act will protect and improve farm income because:

--Payments will be continued at a level needed to maintain farm income.

--The Act's set-aside provisions will keep production levels in line with needs and prevent crop surpluses.

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USDA indicates the Act will offer farmers a wider choice of crop acreages.

--Farmers will have a greater capability to shift production to meet market demand, thus encouraging farmers to produce their most favorable crop.

--Set-aside provisions will encourage more efficient use of land by permitting acreage not set-aside to be planted to any crop as the market and not the government might dictate.

--Interplay of market pricing and greater flexibility in farm production patterns will influence crop output toward those most needed for actual use either at home or abroad.

"Common sense dictates approval of the Conference Report," Dole said. "Any alternative other than approval of the Report at this time would merely cause further delay to the farmers of this nation."

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