

PRESS RELEASE, FEBRUARY 6, 1961

FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE, MEMBER OF CONGRESS, SIXTH DISTRICT,
KANSAS, WASHINGTON, D. C.

Congressman Bob Dole, 6th District Kansas Republican introduced a bill Monday, February 6, to extend the development period for water users in the Bostwick Irrigation District from 5 to 10 years. Recently, the Secretary of Interior granted a 2-year administrative extension, but it was determined legislation is necessary to obtain a 5-year extension.

Under the terms of the contract entered into between the Board of Directors of the Bostwick Irrigation District and the Bureau of Reclamation, a 5-year development period is provided. In many reclamation repayment contracts a 10-year development period has been provided.

Dole said farmers in the Bostwick Irrigation District justifiably felt the 5-year period was not adequate as many are not financially able to start making payments this year because of the prevailing "cost-price squeeze" in agriculture.

"This bill extends the development period to ten years without reducing the 40-year period in the present contract for repayment of construction of the distribution system. The bill would not affect operating and maintenance costs of the distribution system or water service charges", Dole said.

"In other words, the bill, if passed, would simply defer the time farmers start repaying costs of the distribution system for an additional five years".

Dole made it clear that the bill if enacted, would not result in any expense to the federal government. The measure was the first to be introduced by Dole as a Member of the U. S. Congress.

An identical bill was introduced in the House by Congressman Weaver of Nebraska, and in the Senate by Senators Schoeppel and Carlson of Kansas, and Senator Curtis of Nebraska.