

FOR RELEASE ON
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From the Office of
Congressman Bob Dole (R. of Kansas)
244 House Office Building
Washington, D. C.
CApitol 4-3121, ext. 2715

Congressman Bob Dole, Sixth District Kansas Republican announced hearings were commenced Monday, April 24 by the House Committee on Agriculture of which he is a Member, on the Kennedy Administration farm bill introduced in the House on April 18th.

Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman, was the first witness scheduled to appear before the Committee in support of the Bill, H.R. 6400.

Dole said the bill, if enacted in its present form, would give the Secretary of Agriculture authority to formulate production and marketing controls on every agricultural commodity produced in the United States.

Furthermore, he said it would give the Secretary authority to impose quantity controls in terms of pounds, bales, bushels, and barrels on any agricultural commodity. This would include controls over livestock, including cattle, hogs, poultry and other livestock products. In addition, the Secretary could use any price support device available including direct payments, and give him authority to impose increased penalties on non-complying producers.

Among other features of the bill is a provision which would allow the Secretary to select a Wheat Advisory Committee, and put into effect a wheat program for 1962 which would not be subject to review by Congress. Details of the wheat program are not as yet known, Dole stated.

The measure as introduced, permits certain farmers and other individuals chosen by the Secretary to offer advice and counsel on formulation of new programs prepared by him. The Secretary would be required to submit to Congress only the "basic features" of any new program he plans to put into effect. Congress would have 60 days to either accept or reject it with no opportunity for change or amendment. This procedure would not apply to the 1962 wheat program, Dole explained.

"In view of this sweeping change in agricultural policy, I urge farmers to carefully consider this proposal, and give me the benefit of their views", he concluded.