

From the Office of Congressman
Bob Dole (R-Kansas)
Room 244, House Office Building
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Oklahoma City, Okla. - Congressman Bob Dole, Republican of Kansas, made a major address at the Oklahoma Republican State Convention in Oklahoma City last night in which he charged that the Kennedy Administration's "Omnibus Farm Bill" is a step in the wrong direction for American farmers. He asserted the legislation would impose more controls over American agriculture, and mean less freedom of choice to operate.

Dole said he disagreed with those who say the bill gives the Secretary of Agriculture less power. "If this is so, why does Freeman need a new farm program?", he asked.

He pointed out some specific instances where the bill gives the Secretary of Agriculture more power - It gives the Secretary authority to formulate and implement marketing quotas on every agricultural commodity; it authorizes him to impose quantitative controls on those commodities in terms of pounds, bushels, bales, barrels; and among other things, gives the Secretary the authority to establish a new program for wheat for 1962.

Congressman Dole stated the provisions in the bill concerning a wheat program would make it possible for the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a program which would not be subject to review by Congress, and would give him authority to decide which farmers would be eligible to vote in a referendum by excluding those not subject to quotas. The choice offered eligible farmers in the referendum, would be between the new program and price supports at 50% of parity to cooperators, (those staying

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voluntarily within their allotments) with no price supports for those not complying.

"The bill will be radically changed by the House Committee on Agriculture", he predicted. "There is already a bi-partisan pattern of opposition to it in its present form, because there is a growing awareness of the potential for building a powerful political machine, and present farm organizations are concerned that the measure if enacted, would to a large extent eliminate the need for their existence. I feel certain, that farmers of the midwest are more interested in a solution to their problems than in a political discussion of them."

With respect to Foreign Policy, Dole said he did not want to second guess the actions of the President, but that there is an apparent gap between Kennedy's campaign promises, statements on this subject, and his record of performance thusfar. Recalling Kennedy's statement of October 5, 1960 that 'My opponent (Vice President Nixon) promises if he is successful, to go to Eastern Europe, to go perhaps to another summit, to go to a series of meetings around the world. If I am successful, I am going to Washington, D. C., and get this Country to work', "It appears to me the President's memory is very short in view of his recent announcement that he will meet with Premier Khrushchev at Vienna after his Paris conference with President DeGaulle."

"In the light of recent events, the Cuban fiasco, our failure of will and conviction in Laos, the highly publicized Russian advances in space, and the present Geneva atomic deadlock negotiations, the cards will all be stacked in Khrushchev's favor".

"This seemingly ill-advised meeting may well heighten international tensions instead of improvind relations between East and West," Dole concluded.