

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

~~Tuesday~~, August 9, 1961

Wednesday

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

The four freshmen Republican on the House Committee on Agriculture (Bob Dole, Kansas; Paul Findley, Illinois; Ralph Beerman, Nebraska; and Ben Reifel, South Dakota) have notified Committee Chairman Harold Cooley they will "volunteer" for service on a "Special Sugar Subcommittee" in an effort to assure passage of Sugar legislation early next year which would provide both old, new and potential growers of sugar beets and sugar cane a fair share of the 3 million ton quota formerly allotted to Cuba. In a public statement August 3, Cooley indicated hearings would be deferred until next year because Secretary Freeman had advised him the U.S.D.A. was not ready to submit recommendations for sugar legislation.

Dole, spokesman for the four freshmen Congressmen, stated in his letter to Cooley, "The refusal of Secretary of Agriculture, Orville Freeman, to make recommendations now on a long-range sugar program does not necessarily preclude formulation of definite proposals this year as our Committee, not Secretary Freeman, has the ultimate responsibility. It is indeed strange however, the Secretary has not yet adequately informed himself about a matter of such vital importance to American farmers."

Dole stated he didn't know whether the offer to serve would be considered and added, "With adjournment possible in early September, many members will leave for various assignments and commitments elsewhere, hence hearings by our full Committee are unlikely, but a "Special Subcommittee" could be designated by Cooley. The four of us have expressed our willingness to serve now and if necessary, after adjournment, so that some real ~~progress~~ ^{progress} can be made in sugar legislation. *He added,*

"Secretary Freeman's refusal to make recommendations is indefensible, but Congress, functioning through its Committees, is responsible for legislation. The Sugar Act, adopted in 1937, has been reenacted or extended nine times with little regard to ^{the welfare of} American farmers. The solution simply is to give American farmers a portion of the former Cuban quota now allotted to other countries. Instead of worrying about what will happen to Cuba when and if Castro falls, this Administration should concern itself with those farmers of America who have time and time again expressed their interest, ability and willingness to produce sugar. Certainly a decision which would permit American farmers to produce a profitable non-surplus crop should not be difficult."