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Press Release

From the Office of
Congressman Bob Dole
Colby, Kansas

Congressman Bob Dole, (R-Kansas) said today in a statement released through his Service Office at Colby, Kansas, that it seemed an appropriate time, now that the Kennedy Administration has completed a full year in power with command majorities of both houses of Congress to weigh the Democratic farm pledges and promises of the 1960 campaign against actual performance.

Dole said it would be interesting to learn what has become of that shimmering promise of full parity income which was dangled before farmers such a short time ago. It seems only fair to ask if full parity really means 79% of parity, since the parity ratio, which measures prices received by farmers against those they pay for production, averaged 79% throughout 1961. This was the lowest average since the depression year of 1939, lower than at any time during the Eisenhower Administration, which had been blasted by Congressional Democrats who cited the parity ratio as an irrefutable evidence of the worsening condition of American Agriculture. What has become of the figure Democratic warriors painted on their shields as they went forth to political battle in the farm belt? It seems now, with the parity albatross wrapped around their own necks, Administration farm leaders have become unusually silent. Kennedy also promised "preservation of the family farm", but there are fewer family farms now than there were a year ago. Even more discouraging are reports that this Administration is fostering a program to convert as much as 68 million acres of crop land to forest, pasture, and recreational purposes. The end result of such a program can only be an inevitable reduction in the number of "family farms". The economic impact upon small cities and towns would be beyond calculation and would increase the ever growing migration of our rural population toward the major population centers of our country which are already overburdened with unemployed. "Apparently", Dole said, "Secretary Freeman has interpreted Mr. Kennedy's pledge "to get the country moving again" as a command to move people from the country".

Today, after a year of opportunity to act, rather than to just talk about the farm program, this Administration has succeeded only in further upsetting the relationships between the various segments of Agriculture, in destroying commercial markets and feed grain producers, in setting the stage for an ultimate collapse in livestock prices and for increasing the role of the Federal Government in nearly every type of farm operation.

In closing, Dole stated that the farmers are the ones who will pay for the President's predicted surplus of \$463 million in the 1963 Federal budget. Dole pointed out that the budget proposes to spend \$92.5 billion in fiscal 1963 and that Kennedy promised a balanced budget with the \$463 million surplus, but the item Mr. Kennedy did not mention is that the budget for Agriculture has been reduced \$434 million. It is not difficult to predict what will happen in farm programs, particularly in the wheat and feed grain areas.