

March 12, 1962

From the Office of  
Congressman Bob Dole  
244 House Office Building  
Washington 25, D. C.PENALTIES IN FARM BILL TO BE SOFTENED

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) in his regular newsletter to constituents stated, "The U.S. Department of Agriculture is in the process of softening and even deleting certain of the harsh criminal penalties which could be assessed against farmers under the Administration-sponsored Food and Agricultural Act of 1962.

John C. Bagwell, General Counsel of the Department of Agriculture, has assured me that the Department is modifying its earlier recommendations relating to penalties against wheat and dairy producers.

Mr. Bagwell indicated that the Department would favor deletion of the section which provides a fine of not more than \$2,000 or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both, for the dairy producer who fails to keep such records and make such reports as the Secretary of Agriculture might prescribe.

The wheat section of the bill, as it now stands, would subject farmers to four specific penalties ranging from liability under civil action, to a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment of not more than 10 years, or both. Fines up to \$5,000 are provided for farmers who fail to make such reports and keep such records as the Secretary may order. Additionally, farmers would be subject to a similar fine for violation or attempted violation of any regulation which the Secretary might issue in administering the wheat program. Bagwell indicated the Department would recommend most of these penalties against wheat producers be sharply modified. If the suggested changes are not satisfactory, I shall recommend new language myself."

Dole concluded, "Since I have been criticized for charging that the penalties prescribed against farmers in the pending agricultural bill are both unprecedented and unduly harsh, it is encouraging to know that the general counsel of the Department of Agriculture agrees with me. He said my contention that these provisions applied to farmers as well as other handlers of wheat was valid. Now, if a number of other objectionable features of the proposed farm legislation can be eliminated, it is possible a workable program can be enacted during this session of the Congress."