

NEWS RELEASE FROM CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS)

FOR RELEASE:

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Cong. Bob Dole (R-Kansas) in his regular newsletter to his constituents stated today:

"Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman reports that the 'first exclusive representation to a labor union ever given by the federal government has been granted by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to a unit of the American Federation of Government Employees, AFL-CIO.' The agreement covers 2,472 federal meat inspectors in 1,500 slaughter houses and processing plants throughout the Nation.

"The newly-recognized government union will, according to the announcement, negotiate with USDA on terms of employment and working conditions, including 'grievances, safety, tours of duty, and vacation schedules, and other matters not fixed by law and regulation.'

"For the American farmer, whose interest the Department of Agriculture is primarily concerned with representing, there apparently is no similar program to take care of his grievances, tours of duty, and vacation schedules. It can be reported, however, that Mr. Freeman does have in mind for the farmer plenty of 'law and regulation.'"

With respect to the problem the European Common Market poses for U.S. farm exports, Cong. Dole stated:

"The sale of U.S. farm commodities abroad has truly become a big business. In 1961 the marketing of agricultural products overseas accounted for one-fourth of this Nation's total exports of \$20 billion. This year the United States will export some 700 million bushels of wheat--well over half of the country's total production. Exports of corn and grain sorghums have also been on the rise.

"Significantly, the greater part of U.S. farm exports is sold for dollars. Such sales account for about \$3.5 billion annually, while sales for foreign currency under Public Law 480 and outright donation programs move about \$1.5 billion worth of U.S. farm goods into foreign outlets each year. Approximately \$1.1 billion worth of U.S. farm commodities go to the six European Common Market countries annually. During the last five years such trade with these six countries has increased by 29 percent.

"With Great Britain and several additional Western European countries likely to join the Common Market, it will mean that well over half of U.S. sales of farm commodities for dollars will be to this powerful bloc of nations--if, and this is a big if, we can maintain and continue to expand our present agricultural markets within these countries.

"The Common Market countries have approved a system of variable import duties on agricultural products. These levies are designed to offset the differences between world commodity prices and the higher prices which will be established within the Common Market. On wheat, for example, the protected price within the Common Market will be considerably above the world price. This will effectively exclude great quantities of U.S. wheat which now move into this market.

"Before we make further trade concessions to other countries of the Common Market and of the world, we should insist that there be no added discrimination against exports of American goods, including wheat and other farm commodities."

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