

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE OFFICE OF
CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE, (R-KANSAS)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL 17, 1962

Cong. Bob Dole (R-Kansas) who yesterday introduced a resolution requesting an investigation of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the U.S.D.A. today released the full text of a letter forwarded to Secretary Freeman concerning alleged irregularities in that agency.

The text of the complete letter is as follows:

April 17, 1962

Honorable Orville L. Freeman
Secretary of Agriculture
Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

A copy of the resolution calling for an investigation of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service of the United States Department of Agriculture which I introduced yesterday is enclosed for your information. I am hopeful the Subcommittee on Departmental Oversight and Consumer Relations of the House Committee on Agriculture will proceed to this matter immediately.

It is deeply distressing to me to read of recent disclosures of alleged wrongdoing within this agency. Even more disturbing is the fact it was a Texas Court of Inquiry and not the Department of Agriculture which exposed these matters, even though newspaper reports indicate high officials within the Department had, at least, some prior knowledge of the inexcusable activities of Mr. Emery E. Jacobs, Deputy Administrator of ASCS, and perhaps others who may be involved in the Estes affair.

Unfortunately this has thrown a cloud of suspicion over the entire agency, even though only a few may be guilty of any wrongdoing and it would seem an immediate inquiry is in order to clarify the entire situation.

It would be appreciate if you would advise me whether the Department of Agriculture, through its own investigations, has additional information which has not yet been made public in connection with the alleged activities of Mr. Jacobs and any other employees of the Department who may have accepted similar favors. I am certain the farmer who pays \$3.29 of his own money for a pair of overalls is concerned when he reads that one of the top officials responsible for administering farm programs may be wearing \$250 suits donated by a businessman out to get a favor for himself.

Since I have had to rely entirely upon newspaper reports for information, it is not clear whether the present cotton program has loopholes which would permit allotments to be shifted about in the way it was done by Mr. Estes.

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News reports also indicate two Oklahoma employees of the Department were only suspended for two weeks, without pay, for participating in a similar operation and required to make restitution of fees collected. Such a reprimand contrasts sharply with penalties initially proposed in the wheat and dairy sections of H.R. 10010 requiring fines up to \$5,000 and one year imprisonment for not keeping proper books and records.

All of this raises several questions in my mind:

- 1) Should these two Oklahoma officials be permitted to remain as employees of the Department of Agriculture in view of their actions?
- 2) Is it true, as reported in the press, that Estes was named to your National Cotton Advisory Committee over the objections of the personnel section of USDA and that he was permitted to remain as a member of that Committee until after his indictment in Texas?
- 3) Why was Jacobs permitted to resign instead of being discharged immediately when his actions were first brought to light?
- 4) Is legislation required to prevent this alleged conniving with respect to cotton allotments and could similar operations be conducted in wheat and other basic commodities?

I would appreciate having any information you can give me in this matter.

Sincerely yours,

(signed Bob Dole)

BOB DOLE, M.C.