

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1962

Dole today released the following statement:

"When is Orville Freeman going to meet the press?

"The usually voluble Secretary of Agriculture has been strangely silent since the Billie Sol Estes case hit the headlines. Mr. Freeman had his last press conference March 30. His office reports that he has no press conference scheduled for the immediate future.

"Isn't the Department of Agriculture covered by the Administration's pledge to lift the veil of secrecy from government activities? Do the people have a right to know what goes on in such Departments as Commerce and Interior but not in Agriculture?

"The news blackout which Mr. Freeman has imposed upon his own Department's investigation of certain of its own employees and operations is unprecedented. The public has been forced to rely upon facts developed by state courts in Texas and by enterprising reporters for whatever information is available upon the dealings of Billie Sol Estes with U.S. Department of Agriculture employees.

"Congress, which appropriates the funds and writes the legislation administered by the Department, is also getting its information on that agency's operations largely from newspaper clippings. If Secretary Freeman persists in keeping it that way, he at least owes it to the press, the public and the Congress to hold a press conference immediately."

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