

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MAY 10, 1962.

Congressman Bob Dole charged today that "Orville Freeman has surrounded himself with a crew of high-salaried Minnesotans who should be keeping him posted on developments in the Billie Sol Estes mess--a fast-growing scandal which the Secretary says he has been unable to investigate fully because he has been so busy trying to get his farm program enacted."

The Kansas Republican said "Freeman's recent press conference held after 35 days of silence while the Estes scandal grew and grew, showed conclusively that a full-scale Congressional investigation is needed to dig out the facts which the Department of Agriculture has been covering up. Here are some of the Minnesotans Mr. Freeman has brought into USDA and who ought to be keeping him posted on the Estes case:

"Rod Leonard, Assistant to the Secretary, started February 23, 1961, at \$13,730, raised February 21, 1962 to \$15,255. Mr. Leonard has been cranking out news releases by the dozen and is the apparent propaganda chief. He had the distinction of calling the press conference last week at which time N. Battle Hales, a career Democrat, without any prior notice was subjected to a 3½ hour 'Roman Circus' because he had dared to speak out about records within the Department relating to the Estes case.

"Jacob Puterbaugh, Staff Assistant to Charles M. Cox, Acting Deputy Administrator, State and County Operations, ASCS; started August 7, 1961 at \$8,955. Terminated employment November 15, 1961. Was later reappointed February 26, 1962, at \$8,955. Has been recommended for raise in last few days to \$10,635. Puterbaugh is the man who replaced N. Battle Hales. Puterbaugh was a former liquor commissioner in the state of Minnesota and is presently 'guarding' records which might be important in the Estes case.

"Willard Cochrane, Director of Agricultural Economics; started January 23, 1961 at \$13,730, was raised February 12, 1961 to \$18,500. Cochrane is the chief architect of the farm program which would make Freeman a virtual czar over agriculture. Surprisingly Cochrane has apparently been 'under wraps' and has not appeared before the Agriculture Committee this year, obviously because of the tremendous opposition by farmers to the 'Cochrane approach' in last year's omnibus farm bill.

"Dorothy Jacobson, Assistant, former personal secretary to Freeman when he was governor of Minnesota; started January 23, 1961 at \$13,730, was raised March 7, 1961 to \$16,500.

"Joe Robertson, Administrative Assistant to the Secretary, was on loan from Census to Agriculture. Started February 15, 1961, at \$13,730. Officially transferred to USDA on April 11, 1961, at salary of \$19,000.

"Other Minnesotans Freeman has placed on the USDA payroll include:

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"Thomas Hughes, Executive Assistant to Secretary; started January 5, 1961 at \$13,730; raised February 15, 1961 to \$18,500.

"Dr. George Selke, started January 23, 1961, at \$13,730; has received no raise.

"Mable Snyder; started February 1, 1961, at \$7,260, was raised July 10, 1961, to \$8,955.

"Byron Allen, started April 10, 1961, at \$13,730; has received no raise.

"Miss Marigold, started January 5, 1961 at \$5,355. Was raised January 24, 1961 to \$8,955 and resigned on July 14, 1961."

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