

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

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Cong. Bob Dole (R-Kansas) said today there was little to be proud of in the Omnibus Farm Bill finally passed by the Agriculture Committee yesterday by the hairline vote of 18-17.

Dole stated the bill as passed by the Committtee sets an all-time record for controls and power in a Secretary of Agriculture in wheat and feed grain areas and charged that, as usual, the Midwest will feel the brunt of the Freeman program while producers of cotton, rice, tobacco, and peanuts and most other agricultural commodities will not be affected at all by the program.

Cong. Dole indicated passage of the bill was in doubt because of the opposition of certain Democratic Members, "but key political amendments were offered and adopted which permit the Secretary to determine deficit feed grain areas not subject to acreage reductions and the last minute amendment to permit feed grain producers not using their allotments to turn them over to county stabilization committees for redistribution. The obvious purpose of these amendments was to minimize objections of Southern Democrats to the bill. While we take our acreage cuts in Kansas the Secretary can protect those in the South, and while feed grain producers primarily in the South are now permitted to turn back their allotments for redistribution the wheat producer in Kansas is denied this privilege," Dole charged. "All in all," Dole concluded, "the bill is a political hodge-podge containing mandatory provisions in the feed grain and wheat sections requiring acreage reduction of at least 20 percent in feed and wheat grains with no assurance of an increase in price support. This is permanent and not temporary legislation and if passed in Congress it will be the beginning of the end for thousands of small farmers in Kansas and throughout the nation." Dole also indicated he would offer several amendments on the House floor.

Dole concluded Freeman desperately needed this so-called victory because of the fast-growing Billie Sol Estes scandal which deeply involves USDA employees and which if investigated will disclose the need for a complete shake-up in his Department.

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