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"OPERATION UNCOVER" ENTERS THIRD DAY

Two more GOP Congressmen took the floor of the House today charging the Administration's efforts to cover up the Billie Sol Estes case "has taken on the dimensions of a national disgrace." They called for an investigation of the Estes case by the House Agriculture Committee.

As part of "Operation Uncover," which is now in its third day, Rep. James F. Battin (R. of Mont.) urged that the House Committee on Agriculture "call an immediate investigation, using its full power of subpoena and clear up the mess that is now rocking the Nation."

The Montana Republican charged that the Estes case is "but one example of the high-handed attitude of the Department in dealing with the right of not only the taxpayer but also the elected officials in government.

"The faith that the farmers have had in the past in the Department has been shattered by the refusal on the part of the Administration to call for a quick and thorough investigation of abuses," Battin declared.

"It will be difficult for the members of the House to view the Administration's farm bill, which will give even more power and control to the Department, with anything but skepticism," Battin said, "for the same people who are now charged with the wrongdoing will be the ones who would administer the program."

Rep. Ralph F. Beerman (R. of Neb.) told the House:

"There has already been a substantial loss of faith by the American people in the Department of Agriculture as a result of the Estes case. If the House will not live up to its responsibility to investigate this matter, I am very much afraid that the House too will suffer a similar loss of faith by our constituents."

"The Department of Agriculture's attitude in attempting to cover-up this mess has taken on the dimensions of a national disgrace.

"Is the House of Representatives to follow this dubious attitude and aid and abet in putting the lid on the Estes case? I fervently hope not."

"Operation Uncover," according to its director, Rep. Bob Dole (R. of Kans.) will continue until the House launches a full-scale investigation of its own.

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