

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
MAY 16, 1962

Cong. Bob Dole (R-Kansas) indicated today that he was continuing to investigate shipment of grain from the Kansas City Commodity district to Billie Sol Estes storage facilities in Texas.

Dole indicated that in a telephone check with the Kansas City office he was advised that all pertinent records were being forwarded from the Kansas City offices by air-express to the office of Frank W. Hussey, Deputy Administrator, Commodity Operations, ASCS. Dole followed with a letter yesterday to Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman, as follows:

"May 15, 1962

"Honorable Orville Freeman
Secretary of Agriculture
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

"Through Mr. Rolland F. Ballou of the Commodity Operations Office of USDA, I am informed that some 5.2 million bushels of wheat were loaded out of storage facilities in the Kansas City Commodity area and moved during 1961 to facilities operated by the Estes interests in the Plainview area of West Texas. Some of the grain was moved from Nebraska, Missouri and Colorado, but a major portion of it came from Kansas and hence my interest.

"The Kansas City area Commodity office informs me that the records pertaining to this operation have been assembled and are now in transit to Mr. Frank Hussey, Deputy Administrator for Commodity Operations here in Washington.

"It seems unusual to at least some grain men in the Kansas City area that wheat which was in position to move through normal transportation routes to the mills and the Gulf ports was instead moved out of position to West Texas. It is, as you know, a costly transaction to ship grain. Rough estimates are that it may have cost the government from \$500,000 to \$750,000 to load out and transport 5.2 million bushels of wheat from various Kansas City area locations to the Plainview area. And when this had been accomplished, grain men inform me, the wheat was in a less desirable location from a marketing point of view than it was before. The fact that the Estes interests thereby acquired several million additional bushels of grain to store for the government is only incidental to the main purpose of this inquiry.

"I would appreciate it if you could have the proper people in the Department of Agriculture provide me with the answers to these two questions:

"1. What was the approximate cost to the government of moving this wheat from the Kansas City area to the Plainview, Texas area in 1961?

"2. Was the request for the movement of this wheat originated in the Dallas area office of Commodity Stabilization or within USDA here in Washington and by whom?

"Sincerely yours,

s/ Bob Dole

BOB DOLE, M.C."