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Office of
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Congressman Bob Dole, (R-Kansas) stated that testimony before the Committee on Agriculture yesterday indicated this Administration is attempting to expand P.L. 480 into a gigantic world-wide welfare plan.

Dole stated the original objective of Public Law 480, enacted in 1954, was to develop trade and work out methods of disposing of commodities in "surplus" supply.

Under the present law only stocks held by CCC may be made available for donation under Title II, but under an Amendment to Title II of the Act proposed by the Administration, the Secretary of Agriculture would have authority to determine that almost ~~na~~ any agricultural commodity is in "surplus". In instances where the Commodity Credit Corporation would not have the designated surpluses on hand it could then go into the market to purchase such commodities from private trade, and provide for reprocessing, packaging and transportation to the country of destination.

Dole stated, "Certainly no one can object to the donation of surplus agricultural commodities accumulated by CCC through its price support operations, to needy people, for in addition to humanitarian consideration when CCC has the ~~n~~ stocks they pay annually large sums for storage and handling charges. There are ample supplies of CCC wheat, corn, and rice, which CCC must necessarily purchase to carry out price support programs, but under the proposed Amendment, such commodities as poultry, livestock, tobacco, fruits and vegetables, which may not be "surplus", but in "abundant" supply could also be made available.

Dole stated, "It seems strange to me that the Administration would make this proposal now, for in my opinion, it will greatly increase the cost of the farm program, slow the disposal of surplus wheat, bring discredit to a law which has worked successfully, and launch our country into a world wide welfare program which would be charged not to the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, but to the U.S.D.A. and ultimately the American farmers.