

PRESS RELEASE
FROM THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE

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Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) said today that former President Eisenhower's statement concerning the Administration farm bill and penalties therein was correct. Dole stated the bill now before the House still contains criminal penalties including one which would subject wheat producers and others to a fine up to \$10,000 or 10 years in the Federal Penitentiary, or both.

Dole stated that Department officials who now claim there are no penalties in the bill failed to tell the full story for in the original Freeman farm bill farmers would have been subjected to many unprecedented and harsh criminal penalties.

As an example, Dole stated, wheat producers under two separate sections, could have been found guilty of misdemeanors. One section provided fines up to \$5,000 for violating or attempting to violate certain regulations and ^{the other} fines up to \$5,000 for not keeping proper books or records. In Section 440 of the original Act, dairy producers could have been fined up to \$2,000, imprisoned in the Federal Penitentiary for one year, or both, for not keeping records as required by the Secretary.

Dole stated it was only after repeated efforts by himself and other Republican members of the House Agriculture Committee that the wheat producer was exempted from the \$5,000 fine provisions and that dairy penalties were stricken from the bill. Dole stated Freeman himself in a nationally televised t.v. program on March 11 when speaking of criminal penalties replied, "some people drafted the bill a little over-enthusiastically."

"The proposed penalties were unduly harsh and completely without precedent in the history of farm legislation," Dole said, "and it would be interesting to know why the Department ever made such recommendations in the first instance."

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