

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

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Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today released this statement on the Billie Sol Estes controversy.

The mimeograph machines of the U.S. Department of Agriculture yet threaten to bury the Billie Sol Estes case beneath the thickest "snow job" yet witnessed on the New Frontier. Investigation of the Estes case by the majority party contrasts sharply with the Sherman Adams investigation in 1958. In 1958, also an election year, Adams was hailed before the House Legislative Oversight Sub-committee 12 days after his name had been mentioned.

The only witnesses to date, some 8 weeks after the Attorney General of Texas, Will Wilson, broke the Estes scandal, have been career employees of USDA who have read into the record lengthy self-serving canned statements apparently designed to <sup>rrr</sup>collaborate the Department's position.

The witnesses called are not responsible for decisions concerning alleged favoritism to Estes and while they may know of certain aspects of the case, they certainly are not "key" witnesses in any sense of the word.

It would appear impossible to develop the story of Billie Sol Estes without calling Billie himself, but he has not even been subpoenaed to appear before the House Subcommittee, nor has Secretary of Agriculture, Orville L. Freeman, who is responsible for his Department's operations. Under-Secretary Charles Murphy, the man who sat in judgment on Estes fraudulent cotton allotments, has not appeared before the investigative group, and also standing in the wings, presumably waiting for a call, are former Assistant Secretary James Ralph, former Deputy ASCS Administrator Emory "Red" Jacobs and Jacob's assistant, William Morris, all of whom have departed from the USDA since the Estes scandal broke.

A shadow-boxing exercise is interesting, however, it seems imperative that Congressional investigators learn what role, if any, each of these persons had in handling the bogus Estes cotton allotments, the shipments of grain to his Plainview, Texas, storage facilities from the Kansas City area, the appointment of Estes to the National Cotton Advisory Committee after he had been fined \$48,000 for over-planting his cotton allotment and the approval of a \$700,000 grain storage bond for Estes when a more prudent Administration would have required an adequate bond.

Thus far, neither Congress, nor the public is getting answers to the many serious questions raised in connection with the Estes scandal. Until witnesses are called, who were directly involved, we must sit in darkness while the President heaps praise on Freeman because the Secretary is a Phi Beta Kappa, a wounded veteran, and a former football player at Minnesota University. It might be well for this Administration to slow down its drive to control the farmers of America and spend a little time regaining control of various government departments and agencies, including the USDA.

Rep. Florence Dwyer (R-N.J.) ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Intergovernmental Relations, currently investigating the Estes scandal, appropriately charged that the testimony given to date, "raised more questions than it has answered."

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