

FOR RELEASE MONDAY
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FROM THE OFFICE OF
CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
244 HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) stated today that wheat and feed grain producers in the Midwest are made the "whipping boys" under the Administration's proposed farm program to be considered by the House this week.

Dole charged that the measure was politically oriented in an effort to induce southern Democrats to go along with it. "The political aspects of the bill are clearly illustrated," Dole said, "by a provision which will permit the Secretary of Agriculture to proclaim certain areas as "deficit feed grain areas", hence not subject to acreage reductions. This provision will protect nearly every Southern state, as they are all deficit areas and use more feed grains than they produce. It does not take an expert to determine which area of the country will take feed grain acreage cuts and this injustice, coupled with a wheat program which provides increased acreage cuts without support price increases, will be disastrous to the so-called "family farms", in Kansas and throughout the Midwest."

Kansas wheat producers should understand the House Bill would require them to take a double cut since under the provisions the present base period for calculating national and state acreage allotments would be changed from a ten year period to a five year period. "This change," Dole stated, "would cost Kansas producers an additional acreage cut of 138,610 acres, or another 1.3%. This is grossly unfair when we consider that states such as North Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Minnesota and many other states, which are not historically wheat producing areas, will gain acreage by virtue of this change."

Dole indicated those, including Secretary Freeman, who say that wheat and feed grains should be brought under controls comparable with those provided for cotton, rice, tobacco and peanuts, overlook many facts and that a fair comparison is impossible. As an example, Dole pointed out in the State of North Carolina some 75,383 farms were producing wheat in 1958, but in the year 1960 this number had risen to 78,881. As far as I know, there are no tobacco farms in Kansas, and though admittedly cotton and tobacco acreages have been reduced, farmers in those areas have been able to diversify while, on the other hand, in western Kansas the only crop we can raise in many areas is wheat.

Dole concluded by pointing out that there were many other provisions in the bill which were completely unacceptable to Kansas farmers and that in his opinion a simple extension of the present wheat and feed grain programs would satisfy demands of the farmer until such time as the USDA comes up with a program which would eventually, perhaps in four or five years, remove the government from farming operations. If there was an invitation to another Billie Sol Estes scandal, it can certainly be found in programs of tight controls and regulations such as proposed in HR 11222.