

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

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DOLE SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT ON ESTES CASE

In a speech on the House floor, Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today stated:

"I have been amused by the repeated attempts by the majority party in their efforts to pin the label of 'obstructionist' on the Republicans. The apparent basis for this is the letter written by Mr. Sorkin last September.

"On yesterday the distinguished majority leader stated in effect that Republicans met secretly to work out strategy to oppose the Democratic farm bill. First of all, I feel we should set the record straight on just what farm bill the Republicans were to oppose, for on September 11, 1961, the date of the Sorkin letter, there was no farm bill before Congress, the 1961 Agriculture Act had been passed and signed by the President on August 8, 1961, and the 1962 farm bill was still just a gleam in Dr. Walter Cochrane's eye as it was not introduced until January 31, 1962.

"With reference to secret meetings of Republicans, I had assumed it was proper for party officials of either party to meet without advance notice, or an invitation to the other, and I would imagine that many meetings have been held with reference to this bill by the majority party leaders. I am certain members of the Republican Party were not invited, nor did they expect an invitation. The feeble attempts to evade the responsibility for the Estes scandal are amusing, but interesting, and I think it is well to recite some of the highlights which have been disclosed thus far by the press, the Attorney General of Texas, Will Wilson, and by N. Battle Hales, an employee of the USDA. I have followed the Estes case closely and have stated many times that regardless of party those guilty of wrongdoing should be exposed and dealt with accordingly, but the record should show that Estes was a leading Democrat in the State of Texas and at one time was considered as a candidate for governor, has boasted about large contributions to individual Democrats in the Democratic Party and in fact even received a gold engraved acknowledgement from the Democratic Party for his large contributions. His walls are adorned with pictures of famous Democrats, including the President and the Vice-President. Billie bragged to his friends, 'I'll call Orville and if he can't help, I'll call Lyndon and if he can't help, I'll call Jack.' Certainly members of the majority party should not now turn their backs on Billie.

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"There have been many inferences about influence, but let's take a look at the facts now available concerning the Estes case. Billie would not settle for any former members of the USDA because he knew that if he wanted favors he must deal directly with the Administration in power and those who occupied key positions. This list will certainly grow, but don't forget his close friends were Dr. James T. Ralph, an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture until recently; Emory E. Jacobs, Deputy Administrator in charge of cotton allotments; William Mossis, Jacob's assistant; Jerry Holleman, an Assistant Secretary of Labor; and William Mattox, Texas A.S.C.S.

"There are several questions that remain unanswered which conclusively show that Billie Sol did have influence. It takes something to be appointed to the Nation Cotton Advisory Committee after having been assessed a \$48,000 penalty for over-planting his cotton allotment. It takes something to persuade Department officials to continue to expand grain storage facilities with a completely inadequate warehouse bond. It takes something to obtain 3,123 acres of cotton allotments from farmers in Georgia, Oklahoma, and Texas, which would net Estes between \$500,000 and \$600,000 a year. It takes something to have a device declared illegal (as were the cotton allotment transfers) and then subsequently have this action rescinded.

"These are just a few of the highlights, but if members of the other party wish to discuss the Estes case in detail though it seems doubtful since Secretary Freeman has held only two press conferences in some 80 days and since it has been over 10 weeks since the Estes case was broken by Oscar Griffith, editor of the Pecos Independent and Enterprise, and very little has been done, I am certain such a discussion can be arranged."

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