

July 18

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) predicted today that the House will approve a one-year extension of the present emergency wheat and feed grain program. A vote is expected this week.

"This does not necessarily mean the measure will become law, however," Dole said. "The House bill will go to the Senate and will then be referred to the Senate Agriculture Committee for further action. Senate Ellender (D-La.), Chairman of this Committee, has said repeatedly that he opposes further extension of the emergency wheat and feed grain program. And a Committee Chairman can very often determine the fate of legislation referred to his group.

"Earlier the House had voted down a measure similar to one previously passed by the Senate. Now we have arrived at a possible stalemate. If the Senate won't accept the House measure, there probably will be no farm bill this year.

"Wheat and feed grain producers would then go back to the earlier program provided in the Agricultural Act of 1958. Under this law, wheat price supports would be set at 75 percent of parity at \$1.81 per bushel. Corn supports would drop from the present \$1.20 per bushel to about \$1.05. Grain sorghums and other feed grains would also be supported at a lower rate, based upon their feeding value relationship to corn.

"As an offset to the lower price supports, farmers would be permitted to plant more acres under the 1958 Act. There would be no restrictions upon feed grain plantings. Wheat growers would not be required to take a 10 percent acreage cut as they have this year.

"I am still hopeful that the Senate will act favorably upon a one-year extension of the present program but at the moment the chance of this happening is not too bright.

"Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman is largely responsible for the unfavorable situation which has developed. First he was insistent upon having his own tough production control plan or nothing. When the House over-turned him on that, he continued to maneuver behind the scenes in an effort to revive his legislative program through the conference route. Administration strategy seems to be aimed at getting House conferees to agree to accept the Senate version of the bill which closely coincides with Mr. Freeman's original proposal."