

July 19

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) said today in a special report to the Pratt Daily Tribune that the "defeat of the proposed national marketing order for turkeys in a referendum held from June 18 to 22, clearly illustrates the farmer's lack of confidence in both Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman and the Kennedy Administration."

"The vote showed conclusively that the great majority of turkey growers want no part of any proposed Freeman marketing order," he added.

Dole said that a two-thirds majority was required before a turkey marketing order program could be put in effect. Nationally only 43 percent of the eligible voters supported the marketing order. Kansas turkey growers made their position clear with only 19 voting for it, while 175 producers voted against it.

"In my opinion, the results of the turkey referendum can largely be attributed to the complete lack of confidence the average farmer presently has in the U.S.D.A.," Dole said. "It is my belief that Secretary Freeman's insistence upon rigid control programs has alerted farmers throughout America to the ultimate danger of vesting unlimited power in the hands of the Secretary of Agriculture.

"What can the farmers expect," Dole asked, "when the present Secretary advocates a farm program designed to punish noncompliers with fines and jail sentences? Moreover, he seeks ultimately to control the livestock industry by controlling feed production. The proposed Freeman plan would perpetuate and enrich the farmer who may operate several thousands of acres at the expense of the small and middle income farmers."