

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

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Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) said he will offer an amendment today to the Department of Agriculture appropriations bill which would prohibit the use of any funds provided therein "for propaganda purposes designed to support or defeat legislation pending before the Congress."

In a statement prepared for delivery on the floor today, Dole said:

"My purpose in offering this amendment is to remind the Executive Branch that career employees of the federal government cannot be turned into propagandists to be used in supporting or opposing pending legislation."

Dole said, "There was a flood of examples indicating abuses of existing laws and regulations and even prior to the now withdrawn memorandum issued by John W. Macy, Chairman of the Civil Service Commission, high officials of the U.S.D.A. had flatly told Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service Employees that they were expected to 'sell' the Administration farm programs and, in at least some cases, these workers were even warned that the alternative was to resign."

Dole said, "In April of this year, State A.S.C.S. officials were brought to Washington at government expense while the Administration farm bill was before Congress and were enjoined by President Kennedy himself to make their presence known to Members of Congress. He told them not to let their Congressmen and Senators get 'lonesome'. We can also recall Secretary Freeman's speech encouraging county extension agents and 4-H Club leaders to participate by supporting pending farm programs.

Dole noted that Chairman Macy retreated from his original position which permitted lobbying by government employees for pending legislation only after Senator John J. Williams (R-Delaware) and Senator Frank Carlson (R-Kansas) challenged the ruling and after Senator Williams offered an appropriations bill rider which would have denied the payment of salary to any federal employee who acted under the Macy ruling.

Dole concluded that though Freeman's Administrative Assistant Secretary, Joseph M. Robertson, had notified him (Dole) by letter dated April 27 that heads of agencies had been notified of the change in the original Macy memorandum which change would prohibit further lobbying by federal employees that his amendment would make the intent of Congress crystal clear to Secretary Freeman and others.

Dole concluded, "Just last month we witnessed lobbying just off the floor of the House while the Administration farm program was being debated. A repetition of such a spectacle must be prohibited or otherwise we may as well throw open the doors and permit Members to sit on the laps of lobbyists."

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