

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

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"In a straight party line decision, the 7 Democrats overrode the 5 Republican Senate-House conferees today and approved a highly-controversial farm measure which literally 'pulls the rug' from under ~~wheat~~ and feed grain producers of Kansas and the Midwest," Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) said.

"If both the House and the Senate vote to accept this conference report," Dole said, "Kansas farmers will see 92 cent feed wheat and 80 cent corn in 1964. Grain sorghum price supports, which would be related to corn on a feed value basis, would also plunge sharply.

"Although the Administration campaigned on a pledge of price supports at not less than 90 per cent of parity for the basic commodities, the Democrat-dominated Conference came forth with a program which would drop corn supports to 50 per cent of parity and wheat to a blend price of about 75 per cent of parity. The wheat grower would take a second drastic cut in the form of a compulsory 20 percent acreage reduction in 1964.

"The wheat program written by the conference majority bears little resemblance to the Domestic Parity, or two-price plan, which many wheat producers have been advocating through the years. Instead of the \$1.40 per bushel which farmers were led to believe would be guaranteed them for the approximately 15 to 18 per cent of their crop marketed as feed grain, conferees were told by USDA officials that the support for this class of wheat would be only 92 cents a bushel. For the 82 to 85 per cent of the wheat consumed as food in the United States or exported to foreign countries, farmers would receive an estimated \$1.95 or \$2 per bushel. Thus the blend price for wheat would be somewhere in the \$1.75 to \$1.82 range. But farmers would have 20 per cent fewer bushels to market.

"The program approved by the Democrat majority in conference meets neither of the two prime tests which any acceptable piece of farm legislation should meet. It does not protect farm income; in fact, it will push farm income lower. It does not protect the farmer's freedom; in fact, it shackles him with more controls and regulations than he has ever borne before.

"For 1963, the conferees agreed upon wheat and feed grain programs which are acceptable. They would extend the voluntary feed grain program one year. For wheat, they adopted basically the language of a bill which I introduced on August 13, calling for diversion payments to farmers who agree voluntarily to retire part of their wheat acres from production.

"It appears to me that these voluntary programs for 1963 are being used by the Democrats, however, as bait to induce farmers to accept harsher controls and less price protection in subsequent years.

"When the report comes before the House, later this week, I shall vote to send it back to conference with instructions to write a program which farmers can understand and with which they can live."

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