

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
SEPTEMBER 25, 1962

WASHINGTON OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE
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WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today said Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman "still smarting from my role in exposing the Estes scandal, has now chosen to inject himself into the First District Congressional race in Kansas."

"Last week I called Mr. Freeman's attention to newspaper reports that wheat was being moved from Kansas and adjoining states for storage in West Coast warehouses," Dole said. "In my letter to the Secretary, I stated, 'It seems to me that wheat should remain in the general area where it was produced, if storage space is available, and should be moved only to meet domestic and export needs.' I further inquired as to the amount of wheat which would be moved under this relocation program.

"Normally, the Secretary doesn't respond to official inquiries from me. He has unanswered letters from me on various phases of the Billie Sol Estes scandal which have been on his desk for months.

"This time, however, he replied by special messenger and also apparently wired a copy to my opponent, Congressman Breeding who is in Kansas campaigning while Freeman acts as his "hatchet man" in Washington. Within an hour after Freeman's letter was received I had written again requesting the same information.

"In his initial reply, Mr. Freeman deliberately distorted the nature of my inquiry and falsely accused me of opposing wheat market development programs and of favoring the 'storage of grain rather than moving it to Japan."

"I have always favored the efforts of Wheat Growers and other groups to expand and promote the marketing of farm products abroad. This program was inaugurated long before Mr. Freeman became Secretary of Agriculture and I expect it will continue long after he is out.

"What Kansas farmers object to, is moving wheat from their own bins and from country elevators to place it in storage in other positions except where there is a market demand to justify such a movement. A year ago, I opposed his plan to spend \$47.2 million to move grain from the Midwest into storage near metropolitan centers. I objected, also, to the movement of 5.2 million bushels of wheat from the Kansas City area to the Billie Sol Estes warehouses in Plainview, Texas. This was outright favoritism. It cost the government hundreds of thousands of dollars and I don't wish to see it repeated.

"Mr. Freeman has never yet replied to my letter of May 15, 1962, to him in which I asked what was the approximate cost of moving this wheat and who issued the orders to move it.

"The Secretary's obvious distortion of the facts concerning my inquiry concerning wheat shipments and his ill-considered political attack upon me demonstrates what the American farmer is up against under this Administration.

"I intend to do everything I can to protect and advance the best interest of the people of Western Kansas despite political attacks by Freeman or Breeding. If the Secretary of Agriculture wishes to become an active participant in the campaign, and apparently he does, I will be happy to have him, his misguided farm program and his proposed fines and jail sentences for farmers as issues in the First District of Kansas. In the meantime I will fight my own battles and carry out my responsibilities in Washington by being present for votes affecting all Americans.