

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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Remarks of Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) inserted in the Record
September 27, 1962

MR. SPEAKER: Perhaps at this time of the year those of us in public office who are candidates for re-election should be accustomed to half-truths and distortions. This has not been my policy, and therefore those members who may have opposed any of Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman's policies in the past should be aware of his possible direct activity in your campaign. Perhaps it is not surprising to learn this member of the President's cabinet is guilty of distortion and outright untruths in replying to an inquiry from any member of Congress. I feel it is my duty as a member who has felt the wrath of this political Secretary to point out what I consider to be proof that Freeman has become a political hatchet man for the Kennedy Administration.

On September 20 I directed a letter to Mr. Freeman, protesting the shipment of Kansas grain from Kansas farms and elevators to the West Coast. In that letter 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." Certainly we should move grain for export or domestic purposes, but not just for the purpose of relocating and storing it in other areas. Last year Kansas farmers and grain men were threatened with the possible relocation of many millions of bushels of Kansas wheat under the guise of Civil Defense which would have cost the American taxpayers some 47.2 million dollars. Also yet unexplained is the shipment of over five million bushels of wheat from Kansas elevators to the Billie Sol Estes empire in Plainview, Texas. At any rate, I felt justified in asking the Secretary how much wheat he planned on moving from Kansas for purposes other than for export or domestic needs, and this was the purpose of my September 20 letter.

In his reply delivered by special messenger on the 24th day of September,

September 27, 1962 (cont)

Mr. Freeman completely evaded the question, but in an obvious effort to assist my opponent who is campaigning in Kansas, distorted the truth, misrepresented an inquiry, and falsely accused me of opposing export development programs and of favoring the storage of wheat rather than shipping it to Japan and other countries. He stated, "In joining with the grain trade to protest the efforts of wheat growers to increase wheat exports, you have taken a most short-sighted position."

I take this time to point this out and would caution you against writing anything to Mr. Freeman as this would give him an opportunity to deliberately misinterpret and misconstrue it. Remember, we are dealing with a man who only last year sought quotas on every known agricultural commodity, including livestock, with a man who this year sought legislative authority to confine dairy farmers in the federal penitentiary for not keeping proper books and records and who sought authority to fine wheat producers up to \$5000 for not keeping proper books and records or following departmental regulations, but above all we should remember that Secretary Freeman seeks to control American agriculture, and it was under his administration that the Billie Sol Estes scandal mushroomed.

Remember, too, just a few days ago Freeman, at the insistence of a fellow Democrat House colleague, apologized to Odin Langen, a Republican member of the House committee investigating the Estes case. Freeman accused Langen of "the grossest kind of irresponsibility", and the fact that Freeman apologized only after urging by the sub-committee chairman clearly reflects who is guilty of gross irresponsibility.

Mr. Freeman is certainly welcome to come to Kansas, and I invite his participation in my campaign, but believe it should be restricted to outright campaign activity rather than issuance of false statements under the cover and protection of his office.

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