

Cong. Bob Dole (R-Kansas) charged today that "wheat producers from Kansas and other Great Plains states will take it on the chin again if an amendment to the Administration farm bill, approved by the House Committee on Agriculture this morning by a vote of 22 to 10, is enacted into law."

Dole said he voted against the amendment in the committee. He challenged his opponent in the congressional race in the new, big First District of Kansas to explain how he voted.

"Even before President Kennedy had signed the Administration farm bill last week, Secretary Freeman trotted before the House Committee on Agriculture a major amendment to the 1963 wheat act," Dole said.

"The measure signed by the President eliminates 15-acre exemption of wheat producers who grow wheat as a minor, sideline crop. It would subject them to the same penalties for over-planting wheat in 1963 as are applied to western Kansas farmers. The amendment pushed through the committee this morning completely nullifies the present law and permits anyone for another year to plant up to 15 acres of wheat without penalty.

"It is the production from these acres in past years that has contributed substantially to the present surplus. While estimates are not available from U.S.D.A. experts, it could be assumed that if the 350,000 affected producers are now allowed to plant up to 15 acres, instead of their highest acreage planted for 1959, 1960, or 1961, some 50 million bushels of wheat could be added to the national surplus next year."

"If each of the 350,000 planted only an additional 5 acres, and in any case this would be a very conservative estimate, it would mean 1,750,000 more harvested wheat acres in 1963—much of it on high-yielding land.

"It does not take an expert to figure out that if 15-acre producers are given this windfall in 1963 the 1964 surplus will be increased and administration leaders will clamor for increased acreage cuts in 1964, not, winter wheat acres. The cut scheduled for Western Kansas in 1964 now is at least 20 percent and passage of this amendment could well force an even higher percentage reduction. This administration move is just another ridiculous example of what we may expect from Secretary Freeman. Perhaps when Freeman comes to Kansas on October 30, he will explain why 15-acre farmers should be exempted from controls while regular wheat farmers are permitted to produce on less than 30 percent of their cropland.

"Contrary to statements by Cong. Breeding, the 15-acre exemption amendment was not a minor clerical error but is a basic change in the bill passed less than 2 weeks ago. It seems strange Mr. Breeding, who was one of the conferees for the provision. It was discussed at great length by House and Senate conferees as late as Sept. 17 and he approved the Conference Report.

the farmers of western Kansas an explanation on his vote in committee

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Dole said he voted against the amendment in the committee. He challenged his opponent in the congressional race in the new, big First District of Kansas to explain how he voted.

"Even before President Kennedy had signed the Administration farm bill last week, Secretary Freeman trotted before the House Committee on Agriculture a major amendment to the 1963 wheat section," Dole said.

"The measure signed by the President eliminated 15-acre exemptions of wheat producers who grow wheat as a hobby, sideline crop. It would subject them to the same penalties for over-planting wheat in 1963 as are applied to western Kansas farmers. The amendment pushed through the committee this morning completely nullifies the present law which permits anyone for another year to plant up to 15 acres of wheat without penalty.

"For example," it is the production from those acres in past years that has contributed substantially to the present surplus. While estimates are not available from U.S.D.A. experts, it could be assumed that if the 350,000 affected producers are now allowed to plant up to 15 acres, instead of their highest acreage planted for 1959, 1960, or 1961, some 50 million bushels of wheat could be added to the national surplus next year."

"If each of the 350,000 planted only an additional 5 acres, and in many cases this would be a very conservative estimate, it would mean 1,750,000 more harvested wheat acres in 1963—much of it on high-yielding land.

"It does not take an expert to figure out that if 15-acre producers are given this windfall in 1963 the 1964 surplus will be increased and administration leaders will clamor for increased acreage cuts in hard, red, winter wheat areas. The cut scheduled for Western Kansas in 1964 now is at least 20 percent and passage of this amendment could well force an even higher percentage reduction. This administration move is just another ridiculous example of what we may expect from Secretary Freeman. Perhaps when Freeman comes to Kansas on October 30, he will explain why 15-acre farmers should be exempted from controls while regular wheat farmers are permitted to produce on less than 30 percent of their original.

"Contrary to statements by Cong. Breeding, the 15-acre exemption amendment was not a minor clerical error but is a basic change in the bill passed less than 2 weeks ago. It seems strange Mr. Breeding, who was one of the conferees did not know of this provision. It was discussed at great length by House and Senate conferees as late as Sept. 17 and he approved the Conference Report. He owes the farmers of western Kansas an explanation on his vote in committee