

BOB DOLE
1ST DISTRICT, KANSAS
—
244 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
CAPITOL 4-3121, EXT. 2715
—
COMMITTEE:
AGRICULTURE
—
DISTRICT OFFICE:
210 FEDERAL BUILDING
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67501

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

COUNTIES:
BARBER HODGEMAN RAWLINS
BARTON JEWELL RENO
CHEYENNE KEARNY REPUBLIC
CLARK KINGMAN RICE
CLOUD KIOWA ROOKS
COMANCHE LANE RUSH
DECATUR LINCOLN RUSSELL
EDWARDS LOGAN SALINE
ELLIS MEADE SCOTT
ELLSWORTH MITCHELL SEWARD
FINNEY MORTON SHERIDAN
FORD NESS SHERMAN
GOVE NORTON SMITH
GRAHAM OSBORNE STAFFORD
GRANT OTTAWA STANTON
GRAY PAWNEE STEVENS
GREELEY PHILLIPS THOMAS
HAMILTON PRATT TREGO
HARPER WALLACE
HASKELL WICHITA

For Release Monday
November 18, 1963
12 Noon

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) introduced a bill today to amend the Tariff Act of 1930 and to impose additional duties on cattle, beef and veal imported in excess of annual quotas. In a statement accompanying the bill Dole stated: The proposed legislation will increase duties substantially on over-quota imports:

- (1) By 5 cents a pound on cattle weighing less than 700 pounds.
- (2) By 6 cents a pound on cattle weighing more than 700 pounds.
- (3) By 12 cents a pound on beef and veal, fresh, chilled or frozen.

These tariff increases will, I believe, restore to American cattlemen much of the domestic market lost to foreign countries in recent years - - and with this would come a much-needed strengthening of cattle prices. The time has come for the Administration to either support this legislation to impose higher tariffs on imported livestock or to enter into voluntary agreements with the major foreign importing nations to restrict beef imports in a manner similar to that already worked out for dairy products and cotton textiles.

The United States imposes only a token tariff on beef imports - - - $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ cents a pound. This represents an open invitation to foreign producers to step up both production and exports to this country. In its outlook report for 1964, the U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts that American beef importations will remain extremely high. Last year, the United States took 79 per cent of Australia's beef and veal exports and, for the past three years, we have been the market for 90 per cent of New Zealand's boneless beef exports.

Today approximately 11 per cent of the beef consumed in the United States is imported. Fresh beef imports increased from 414 million pounds in 1960 to 863 million pounds in 1962. Live cattle imports jumped from 645,000 head in 1960 to 1,232,000 in 1962. There have been comparable increases in mutton and lamb imports.

Today choice fed cattle bring about 25 per cent less than they did a year ago in the livestock markets of Kansas City, Omaha and Chicago. And when the profits are largely eliminated from cattle feeding, the price effect is felt not only in the feeding lots but back on the range, as well.

Page 2

Dole Release (Monday, November 18, 1963 - 12 Noon)

Even as poor a nation as Haiti, which can't feed its own population adequately, exported 2.7 million pounds of meat to the United States in the last fiscal year. This fact is a sidelight of the "Bobby Baker" scandal currently rocking Washington. Cattlemen believe price troubles facing their industry have been caused by unprecedented heavy imports of beef. They foresee continuing depressed prices for domestic cattle unless these imports are substantially reduced.

Western Kansas farmers receive most of their income from wheat and cattle and as I indicated on October 18, this year, the cattle industry is in deep trouble and has been for some time - - largely because huge importations of foreign beef have been hammering down prices received by domestic producers. The Farm Income Situation released this week by the U.S. Department of Agriculture states that realized net income in 1964 is expected to be 5 per cent or more below 1963. This would make farm income in 1964 less than in 1960, the last year of President Eisenhower's Administration.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture contends it is powerless to act. The Federal Tariff Commission, however, unquestionably has authority to impose either higher tariffs or quotas or both, on foreign beef. Thus far the Commission has been reluctant to act. Congress, therefore, in my opinion, must over-ride this reluctance with legislation.

#####