

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

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STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE (R-KANSAS)

RE: Beef Imports

February 18, 1964

High U.S.D.A. officials yesterday hailed as a great victory for American cattlemen the so-called "voluntary" agreement of Australia and New Zealand to limit beef exports to the United States. Actually, the agreement represents a crushing defeat for our domestic cattle industry and a virtual guarantee that cattle prices here will continue to be depressed by record breaking importation of foreign beef.

What Australia and New Zealand have consented to do is to limit their 1964 exports to the United States to the all-time high level reached in 1962 and 1963. For 1965 and subsequent years they would be permitted to increase exports to this country by 3.7 percent in order to share in the expanding demand for beef in the United States. In other words, they not only will hold their present U.S. markets, but will also get a slice of additional markets which will develop as American beef consumption rises.

I agree completely with my colleague, Congressman Thomas G. Morris (D-New Mexico) who said the agreement gives no relief at all to our cattle industry. Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman has admitted that beef imports have cost domestic producers \$170-million during the last two years. Under the agreement which he seems so proud of, the cost to the American cattleman will be even greater in the next two years. 11 percent of the beef consumed in the United States last year was imported, two-thirds of it from Australia and New Zealand. American beef is excluded from foreign markets by prohibitive tariffs and import quotas. Instead of bargaining, instead of insisting that trade in agricultural products be a two-way street, the Johnson Administration has supinely accepted an arrangement which will perpetuate all the injustices suffered by the American cattle industry.