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

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WASHINGTON, D. C. MAY 26, 1967

FOR RELEASE THURSDAY, JUNE 1, 1967

DOLE URGES STRICTER CONTROLS ON DAIRY IMPORTS

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kans), member of the House Agriculture Committee, urged stricter controls on dairy imports to protect the dairy farmer in a speech in the House of Representatives today.

Dole stated that dairy imports have resulted in increased injury to the domestic dairy industry. Dairy imports reached a new high of 2.7 billion pounds of milk equivalent in 1966 -- this was triple the 1965 total of .9 billion pounds. USDA estimates show that imports may reach 3 1/2 billion pounds in 1967.

These estimates for 1967 would equal 2 years production of all the dairy cows in the State of Kansas and an estimated 12 years production in the 52 counties of the 1st District of Kansas.

Congressman Dole pointed out that as imports increased, the farm parity ratio went down to an all time low of 72. This puts a real squeeze on the farmer who is constantly faced with gradually increasing farm costs.

In his statement Dole clearly indicated that action is needed now to protect the dairy farmer and the domestic consumer and for national security. "The Administration must act," he said, "under the emergency authority in the Dairy Import Act; and the Congress must act promptly to close loopholes in the Import Act by passing needed amendments. It should be apparent from past experience," he added, "that new quotas will be evaded if any possible opening is left which can be exploited by import interests."

"The Congress has already voiced its concern," Dole commented, "and over 150 House Members, myself included, have introduced dairy imports bills, and over one half of the Senators have co-authored similar legislation. We want to see some sensible restrictions on dairy imports, including controls on the importation of the evasive-type products."

Dole concluded, "The Nation's 500,000 dairy farmers, already hurt by a costprice squeeze, should not have to take the brunt of still lower prices caused by increased imports of dairy products."