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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, D.C. April 9 --U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today took issue with a reported recommendation that a federal commission be established to insure an adequate supply of beef at reasonable prices. The report predicted a critical shortage of beef by 1975.

"The American Meat Institute indicates we will need four million more cattle in the nation by 1975 than we had in 1968," Dole said.

"Cattlemen added 2½ million cattle to their herds last year -- more than half of the necessary increase.

"The expansion of the cattle feeding business is one of the biggest growth factors in my state, and these beef factories in the form of feedlots are springing up throughout the nation.

"Accompanying these feedlots are small efficient packing plants that provide economic stimulus to the smaller cities of the nation."

Dole said that while beef cattle prices have fluctuated a great deal, there has been no constant upward trend of prices.

"Feedlot expansion has brought more stability to the beef market," Dole said, "and we now see a steadier healthy growth that is providing a firm foundation for the beef industry.

"Higher prices have resulted from other factors such as increases in butchers' and meat cutters' wages.

"General inflation is the culprit in higher beef prices, not the cattlemen."