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FOR RELEASE: MARCH 15, 1971

WASHINGTON, D.C., March 15 ---- U.S. Sen. Bob Dole (R-Kans.) in a statement prepared for the Senate tomorrow (MARCH 16) praised the actions of the Secretary of Agriculture for moving to control excessive dairy imports and for making material expansions in cheese purchases for school and other food programs.

In reference to Secretary Clifford Hardin's announcement last Friday, the Kansas Senator commended the Secretary's decision to maintain the price support on manufacturing milk at the present level of \$4.66 per hundredweight.

Hardin announced Friday that U.S.D.A. will step up its purchase of cheese for the school lunch and other food programs, an action Dole believes will help stabilize dairy prices as well as supply the needed cheese.

Concerning what the Senator considers as necessary control over dairy imports, Dole said, "The Administration is moving to close a glaring loophole in our dairy import program as it regards certain cheeses which are priced at 47 cents per pound or more."

A member of the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee and of the Senate Select Committee on Nutrition and Human Needs, Dole commended Hardin's position as: "economically sound and in the long-run interest of dairy farmers." Dole continued:

Secretary Hardin has not chosen to follow the policy of his predecessor /Freeman/. Instead, he has shown that when the economic and marketing situation warrants action, there will be a boost in price supports (like last year when the increase was the largest singled marketing year raise in the program.