



269

NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The announcement today of the government's regulations for Stage A of the Phase IV economic controls should provide some welcome news for most of the nation's producers of raw agricultural products.

The regulations allowing for a pass through of production costs will undoubtedly result in some increase in the consumer's grocery bill, but they will nonetheless serve his interest, too, by helping to ensure adequate future supplies of food. This is critically important in light of the fact that under the freeze some food items were beginning to disappear from store shelves.

In my view, it is extremely unfortunate that a similar pass through was not allowed in the beef industry. Retaining the ceiling on beef will continue to work a severe hardship on cattle producers and meat processors which the economy in Kansas, where cattle production is a billion dollar a year business, can ill afford.

The impact of the meat ceiling has forced several plants to close and driven some smaller operations out of business. Continued imposition of the ceiling will compound this critical situation.