



NEWS from
**U.S. Senator
Bob Dole**

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DOLE TELEGRAMS NIXON ON CATTLEMEN'S NEED

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole said he agreed with President Nixon's general assessment Tuesday night of the agricultural situation. "Generally," Dole said, "with grain prices up farmers are doing better than ever before. And the President seems to agree that this development is long overdue.

"He did overlook an important exception to this general situation, however," Dole added, "in his comments on beef prices." Dole said he has sent a telegram to the President explaining the cattlemen's current financial problems, "caused in part by controls," and urging that the Federal government take steps to help rectify the situation by "increasing its own purchase of beef for the military and for school lunch programs" and the like.

In his telegram to Nixon, Dole explained, "Cattlemen are selling cattle today for 44 cents a pound. Last year they paid 55 to 60 cents a pound for these cattle, and their cost of fattening the animal to slaughter weight is as high as 50 cents per pound. There is no way they can make money in that position, and as a result they are not replacing cattle in the feedlot pens as they are sold for slaughter. Even if they wanted to buy more cattle, financing would not be available because of adverse prospects for the future.

"Increased production of beef is a lengthy process. Actions causing decreased beef production began with the meat boycott last year and were further complicated by the red meat price ceilings.

"Unless this situation is changed, unless cattlemen are paid a reasonable price for their cattle, consumers will find a shortage of beef next year, and what supply is available will be at record breaking prices. Our cattlemen are going to have to 'have it a lot better' before they produce enough beef to supply the demand. In this connection, I urge Federal Government increase its own purchases of beef both for the military's use and for civilian programs such as school lunches."