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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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BUTZ TO HOLD HEARINGS IN RESPONSE TO DOLE REQUEST

WASHINGTON, D. C. -- In response to a request Senator Bob Dole made last month, Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz is expected to announce shortly that the Department of Agriculture will conduct hearings on milk-price supports.

"The economic situation among dairy farmers is deteriorating to such an extent that dairy farmers are selling off their herds and getting out of business." Dole said, "The cost of their feed is eating up profits and inflation is making it impossible for them to continue. If this trend keeps up, milk suppliers will be seriously affected as fewer and fewer herds are kept on the farm in milk production. I have repeatedly urged an increase in dairy price supports in order to assure consumers an adequate supply of milk. The number of dairy cows in the United States the first eight months of this year declined considerably from last year's total. We must provide a profit incentive for our dairy farmers."

The planned hearings are intended to provide the Secretary with first-hand information on the impact inflation is having on dairymen.