



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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URGENT REQUEST TO FORD FOR INCREASE IN MILK PRICE SUPPORTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--In a telegram to President Ford, Senator Bob Dole today made an urgent plea for Administration action to increase Federal price supports for milk.

Joined in the telegram by two farm state Senators, Curtis (R.Neb.) and Young (R.N.D.), Dole told Ford that "your personal intervention" is now the dairy farmers' "only hope" in light of a recent U.S. Department of Agriculture announcement that it would not recommend price support increases. Unless such action is taken, in the view of the three Senators the already hard-pressed dairy industry in this country will decline further jeopardizing supplies of milk available to American consumers. The three asserted in their telegram to Ford "Our consumers deserve the assurance that an adequate supply of good wholesome milk will continue.

"Many dairy farmers have already sold out, but many others delayed liquidation anticipating favorable results from the recent hearings conducted by USDA on the possible increase in fluid milk prices."

Since USDA did not make the hoped-for recommendation the three Republican Members of the Senate Agriculture Committee urged the President personally to direct an increase in the Federal price supports because "Our dairy farmers are experiencing drastic and constant losses due to the high cost of livestock feed grain. Unless they are given some support through federal programs, many will disperse their herds and quit the dairy business. This would not be in the consumer interest or the general well-being of the Nation."