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December 21, 1974

A bill was passed in the last hours of the 93d Congress raising price supports on milk to 85 percent of parity. The bill, introduced by Senators Bob Dole and Hubert Humphrey, was passed last Wednesday in the Senate in an effort to keep dairy farmers in business.

"Many dairy farmers have had to liquidate their herds or are facing bankruptcy because milk prices are not sufficient to cover cost," Dole said. "Our dairy farmers must have this increase in price or a lack of production in the next year or two could greatly increase the price of milk to consumers."

The present law requires price supports to be 80 percent of parity. The present price support loan for milk is \$6.57 cwt., which was 80 percent of parity April 1, 1973, but is only 72.7 percent of parity at the present time and this bill, on enactment, will raise the price of manufactured milk to \$7.68 cwt. Dole said this does not mean an increase in milk prices of the difference between these two parity figures since the actual market price for manufactured grade milk today is \$7.11 cwt., an increase of only 57 cents cwt. in the market price.

"The bill also provides for a quarterly review of price supports which will be beneficial to farmers in keeping them more current with inflationary trends. This action will enable many dairy farmers who are facing bankruptcy to continue milking their cows and producing the world's most nutritious food."

12/20/74