

Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kansas) today spearheaded a drive to bring relief to the American livestock industry from excessive foreign meat imports which have been severely damaging the domestic meat market.

He introduced in the House today a bill which would restrict foreign meat shipments to the United States to the average of the past five years - 1959 through 1963.

Dole said,

"The recent so-called "voluntary" agreements with Australia and New Zealand to limit beef exports to the United States represent a crushing defeat for our domestic cattle industry and a virtual guarantee that cattle prices here will continue to be depressed by record-breaking importation of foreign beef.

"What Australia and New Zealand have consented to do is to limit their 1964 exports to the United States to the all-time high level reached in 1962 and 1963. For 1965 and subsequent years they would be permitted to increase exports to this country by 3.7 percent in order to share in the expanding demand for beef in the United States. In other words, they not only will hold their present U.S. markets, but will also get a slice of additional markets which will develop as American beef consumption rises."

There were more than forty Democratic and Republican Members of the House who introduced identical bills and promised powerful support in the move to stem the flood of foreign meat which has been depressing domestic prices of cattle and sheep, and threatening heavy economic loss to American livestock producers.

"My bill has the support of the American National Cattlemen's Association, the National Wool Growers Association and many regional and state livestock groups including the Kansas Livestock Association with whom I have kept in close touch on the problem," Congressman Dole said.

"Kansas beef has been bearing much of the brunt of battle against foreign imports, since the grades of beef imported compete more directly with the grades of beef produced from Kansas cattle. The Kansas cattle industry is one of the State's biggest industries and anything that has an adverse effect on the industry adversely affects the whole State.

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"My bill continues to giv

"I introduced a bill earlier dealing with the problem, but this is the bill on which the entire livestock industry has now united. Many sponsors of the earlier bills are introducing this bill with me. My bill continues to give foreign meat shippers a generous share of the American market," Dole concluded.