

243 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
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AGRICULTURE
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
DISTRICT OFFICE:
210 FEDERAL BUILDING
HUTCHINSON, KANSAS 67501

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

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Congressman Bob Dole (R-Kan) has introduced legislation to regulate and limit imports of milk and dairy products. Dole stated that heavily subsidized exports of surplus production in foreign nations, coupled with price increases in this country needed to stop a dangerous decline in domestic production, has resulted in abnormally large volumes of imports of evasion-type products during 1966. The U. S. restrictions on dairy imports proved useless as interpreted and applied by the Department of Agriculture. "This continuous increase in imports of dairy products poses a serious threat to American dairy farmers in 1967, unless Congress acts to fix a limit on imports under this legislation," Dole said.

The bill, to be cited as the "Dairy Import Act of 1967", would use as a base the average annual quantities of butterfat and nonfat milk solids imported during the five calendar years 1961-65. The import control would be automatic and not require lengthy and unsatisfactory Tariff Commission proceedings as under present law. In addition, the control would be flexible as between products and countries in order to permit recognition of any legitimate new dairy products which might be developed, while at the same time preventing evasion.

Dole explained that provision is made to permit the President to authorize additional imports in the national interest. However, if such imports are admitted at a time when dairy farmer prices are below parity, a corresponding quantity of dairy products would be removed from the domestic market. The bill also provides that, as the domestic market expands due to population or other factors, the import total would increase in the same ratio.

In conclusion, Dole pointed out that this new bill would not only put an end to the subterfuge and evasion practiced under the present inadequate import controls but would also establish a definite and known level of imports to which the market could adjust and on which our own farmers and foreign countries could make sound future plans.