

This release was phoned to Bee on Thursday, April 27, 1967.

Congressman Bob Dole today introduced a bill to revise the quota control system on meat imports. The bill essentially provides for six changes: 1) eliminating the 10% over-run to prevent imports from exceeding the actual adjusted base quota. 2) imposing the quota by law instead of advance estimates of the level of imports by the Secretary of Agriculture 3) using as the base for total quotas the years 1958-62, thereby omitting 1963, the highest year of meat imports, and obtaining a more representative base period. 4) imposing quotas quarterly instead of annually to smooth out import flaws throughout the year and prevent seasonal surges. 5) giving the Executive branch authority to impose quotas on meat products such as canned and cured beef and fresh lamb and pork when necessary to prevent a damaging flood of meat not presently covered by quotas. 6) charging offshore meat purchases by the Defense Department for troops abroad against the quota applicable to such meat.

In a speech on the floor of the House, Congressman Dole stated, "During the past three years, beef and mutton imports have been steadily increasing. Today farmers and ranchers across the country again face prospects of another year of operating at a loss. It is necessary that timely action be taken whenever any attempts are made to evade the quota limits and when imports of any agricultural commodities take an unfair share of the increase in our domestic market. The time has come to recognize the imminent danger to the livestock industry of our country. I urge Congress to act immediately to tighten present meat import quotas and place them on a more realistic basis."