

FROM: THE OFFICE OF CONGRESSMAN BOB DOLE  
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WASHINGTON, D.C., Oct. 2 -- Congressman Bob Dole, Republican candidate for U.S. Senator, termed the refusal of Secretary of Agriculture Orville Freeman yesterday to impose quotas on meat imports as "unrealistic and unresponsive to the needs of the U.S. livestock producer and feeder."

Dole, commenting on the USDA import estimate of 990 million pounds for calendar year 1968, said, "This estimate reflects an unstable flow of meat imports into the United States."

"Estimates are up 55 million pounds in just three months, and would today be much higher had not Australia and New Zealand agreed to restrict their meat imports for the remainder of the year," he added.

"While I am pleased these foreign producers have agreed to limit their shipments," he said, "I recognize their action was simply to prevent imports from reaching the so-called 'trigger' point of 1,045.3 million pounds. This import level requires the President, under law, to impose more strict limitations on meat imports."

"Erratic monthly imports are damaging to domestic market prices," Dole added. "American cattlemen deserve a fair quota system as the basis for planning and production within the industry."

Dole noted Australian shipments to the U.S. through July were up 12% from 1967, while New Zealand shipments reflected an increase of 28%.

"The voluntary action of these two nations simply reflects an early profit-taking this calendar year," Dole said. "I think cattlemen deserve the assurance that competing imports will flow into the country in an orderly fashion. Quotas should be based upon quarterly estimates, as recommended by the American National Cattlemen's Association."

Dole, a ranking member of the House Agriculture Committee, observed that Secretary Freeman had not yet replied to his letter urging imposition of meat import quotas for the remainder of the calendar year.