

FROM: THE OFFICE OF U.S. SENATOR BOB DOLE
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FOR RELEASE UPON INTRODUCTION

WASHINGTON, D.C. March 5 -- U.S. Senator Bob Dole (R-Kans.) today introduced a Comprehensive Dairy Improvement Bill which would provide for permanent extension of several key dairy programs.

The eight titles of the bill combine several different legislative proposals concerning the production, marketing and distribution of dairy products.

"The entire bill provides the foundation our dairy industry needs to prosper and grow," Dole said. "It would establish a permanent working base for the dairy farmer and would encourage him to continue to provide this important food product for us." Dole is a member of the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee.

The bill would extend permanently:

- *The school milk program which expires June 30;
- *Authority for providing free milk and dairy products to the Armed Forces and Veterans' hospitals;
- *The program of reimbursing dairy farmers for losses due to pesticide residues from sources outside their control;
- *The Class I milk base plan which stabilizes prices throughout the year.

It would also provide a 90% parity milk price support for the 1970-71 year; allow the Commodity Credit Corporation to donate dairy products to needy persons through nutrition and child-feeding programs and would base price supports on whole milk instead of butter fat content.

"Milk production is declining at the present 78.5% parity price support level," Dole said, "and it appears the decline will continue unless the price support is raised to 90%. Milk production in 1969 was the lowest in 17 years.

"The original purpose of the support price based on butter fat content was to support the price of cream marketed separately from milk," Dole explained. "Since very few farmers still sell their milk that way, removal of the support price on butter fat would allow the Secretary of Agriculture to adjust butter prices to be more competitive.

"It is my hope that after referral to the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee this will be considered as a comprehensive amendment to the overall Omnibus Farm Bill which the Senate will be considering this year."

Congressman William A. Steiger (R-Wisc.) introduced a companion dairy bill in the House today.