



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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WASHINGTON, D.C., AUG. 2, 1972 -- Senator Bob Dole today joined Senator Carl Curtis (R-Neb.) in offering an amendment to the Export Administration Act. The amendment calls for the Secretary of Agriculture to have the authority to approve or disapprove the imposition of export controls on agricultural commodities.

The following is an excerpt from Senator Dole's statement:

During the hearings conducted by the Senate Agriculture and Forestry Committee last week and cited by Senator Curtis yesterday in presenting his amendment, it was obvious that the Secretary of Agriculture did not have the option to approve the Secretary of Commerce's decision to impose the restriction on hide exports.

If he had this authority, Secretary Butz would recognize that our producers do not receive \$32 per hide as was indicated in the testimony; but closer to \$18 to \$20, and this is twice as much as he had been paid for some time.

Hide prices are not excessive, nor is the price of cattle or beef. Our farmers are entitled to a fair price for their animals and a fair return on their investment. Recently, cattle prices reached an all-time high. I say, justly so, and they should be higher. For according to USDA figures, our farmers are still receiving only 75% of the income received by non-farm workers.

Now, when cattle prices have attained the same level as 20 years ago, some have urged actions to lower cattle prices; but this is not the solution to the consumer's problems. The restrictions proposed to control hide exports will not lower the price of shoes materially. The increases for other components in a pair of shoes and costs of labor will maintain shoe prices at nearly the present levels, and blaming farmers for the price of cattle hides and for increased shoe prices is totally unfair.