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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.-Kans.)

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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DOLE REQUESTS HEARINGS INTO BEEF PRICES

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senators Bob Dole and Carl Curtis (R-Neb.) joined together today in requesting hearings into the high prices of retail beef in relation to the drastic drop in live cattle prices.

"Live cattle prices have dropped \$12 per hundred weight in the past few weeks," Dole said, "while hamburger prices climbed to record high levels. Cattlemen who have tremendous investments need answers as to why the retail market does not reflect recent low prices for cattle on the hoof. Consumers are being gouged on meat prices while middlemen make windfall profits," the Senator added.

Although a definite time has not yet been set, hearings into beef prices are expected next week in the Senate Agriculture Committee Room.

Dole today signed a letter, along with other members of the Senate Agriculture Committee, requesting the Secretary of Defense James R. Schlesinger to purchase advance food supplies for military use. A similar letter was sent by the Committee to Secretary of Agriculture Earl Butz requesting him to expand supplies of beef used by the Food and Nutrition Service. It is hoped that such action would assist in strengthening the depressed market for live cattle.