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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

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DOLE ASKS TEMPORARY REDUCTION IN MEAT IMPORTS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole today urged "that the beef and pork import policy immediately be reviewed and that action be taken to reduce these imports on a temporary basis."

In a letter to Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz, Dole said, "Large quantities of low quality beef are reported to exist in Australia and Europe and firms in those countries are expected to sell this meat in the United States." Dole added that while this might mean some lower hamburger prices this summer, Americans could expect "higher prices later from the damage imports would cause to the already critically depressed livestock industry. A high level of imports could cause selling from cow herds, and after the many years of building to the current level of output, it would be at least another three year cycle before the present levels of production could be reached."

Dole called this action by the government "especially appropriate since the price controls instituted last year and the recent truck strike have greatly contributed to the difficulties in the livestock industry. It is my understanding that beef imports are expected to rise substantially this year and that a further increase in imports would aggravate the existing problems in the beef and pork industries."

Dole also asked that efforts be intensified to evaluate the effect of a possible flood of foreign meat into this country and the impact it would have on the feedlot business and other sectors of the meat industry.