



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE WANTS POSITIVE ACTION FOR LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Calling actions resulting from this morning's White House Conference of Administration officials, livestock men, packers and retailers "inadequate," Senator Bob Dole said he would continue to push for Senate approval of meat import quotas. Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz and Presidential Economic Counsellor Kenneth Rush met with representatives of all segments of the livestock industry in a conference that had been requested by Dole.

"While I think it has been beneficial for all sectors of the meat industry to sit down together and discuss the present disastrous livestock situation, reports I have received indicate that the Administration is still unwilling to take the positive action necessary to aid livestock producers. Imposition of meat import quotas is of the highest priority, and it appears we will have to continue to push for Congressional action to accomplish this."

Following today's meeting retail industry representatives said that all chain stores would receive telegrams urging the promotion of special sales featuring meat. Additional purchases of beef by the government was discussed as a means to aid the livestock industry, but no announcements of a definite commitment by the government were made. A further meeting by Butz, Rush and Roy Ash, Director of the Office of Management and Budget was set to further discuss meat imports.

In a related area, Senator Dole this afternoon testified before the Senate Agriculture Subcommittee on Agricultural Credit on behalf of his bill to guarantee credit to hard hit livestock producers. Dole said his bill would "benefit both producers and consumers."

Dole's bill provides for a loan guarantee program at market interest rates, so cost to the government would be minimal. "This is the best measure to insure consumers of an adequate, reasonably priced supply of beef, protect livestock producers from bankruptcy, and prevent additional strains on the economy," Dole said, "without putting large additional costs on the government."