

995



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

(R.—Kans.)

New Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 (202) 225-6521
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE CONTACT: JANET ANDERSON
FRIDAY, JUNE 21, 1974

SENATE ENDS DEBATE ON LIVESTOCK CREDIT BILL

WASHINGTON, D.C.—"Livestock producers need protection from financial disaster and consumers need protection from exorbitant meat prices," Senator Bob Dole said today. "This bill would help achieve those objectives." Dole made the statements during Senate debate on a bill that would provide guaranteed loans to hard hit livestock producers. Business on the bill ended this afternoon and a roll call vote is expected Monday afternoon.

The bill includes several provisions from the Livestock Producer and Consumer Protection Act of 1974, which was introduced by Dole on June 11. The Kansas Senator said the most important provision "is that the loans guaranteed under this program will be at commercial market rates. There is no subsidized rate. Cattlemen and other livestock producers do not want a handout from the federal government, but they do need protection from financial disaster."

"Livestock producers in Kansas are on the verge of bankruptcy," Dole continued. "The cattle industry alone is a \$2 billion industry, the largest moneymaking industry in Kansas. It has taken fantastic losses, estimated as high as \$600 million and some cattlemen have already been forced out of business."

Dole also said there have been numerous safeguards written into this bill to prevent abuses or excessive dependence on it. There is a loan limitation of \$1 million to prevent the government from being in a position where loan failure might necessitate large federal repayment. Also, it will be available only to bona fide farmers and ranchers, not those who speculate in the livestock market or use it for a tax shelter."

Dole also mentioned that the program should cost the federal government very little because loans must be adequately secure and because livestock producers have a tradition of meeting their financial obligations.