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NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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SIX TOP REPUBLICANS SEND LETTER TO FORD: URGE IMPORT QUOTAS

WASHINGTON, D.C.--Senator Bob Dole and five other top Republican Senators sent a letter late Friday to President Gerald Ford urging him to consider reinstating dairy import quotas and voluntary meat import quotas. Senators sending the letter included Carl Curtis (Neb.), Roman Hruska (Neb.), Milton Young (N. C.), Henry Bellmon (Okla.) and Jesse Helms (S.C.).

The Senators said that although the need for import quotas is not obvious to consumers at this time, they would become painfully aware of the problem in the future. "Unless our farmers are provided the protection against anticipated influx of meat imports and dairy imports in the next few months," the Senators wrote, "the dairy herds and the foundation herds that will produce our meat two or three years from now will be dispersed and sold out due to lack of profit incentives." Dole added later that this reduction of herds would, of course, cause consumer prices to rise.

The six farm state Senators also pointed out that problems faced recently by the livestock and dairy industries "were largely the result of federal government action in the interest of the American consumer. These actions, ranging from costly expense to control pollution from feedlots to the disastrous price control system, have been accepted rather well as a part of doing business," they added.

The Senators told Ford that "the compounding of crop forage shortages due to drought and relatively low cattle and dairy prices are bringing about a critical need for those import quotas to be reinstated."

The Senators also offered to meet with Ford to discuss the current problem with him or to provide further information.