

REMARKS OF SENATOR BOB DOLE
AT THE
ALL AMERICAN JUNIOR HEREFORD ASSOCIATION FIELD DAY
RUSK HEREFORD RANCH
SUN CITY, KANSAS
JULY 19, 1974

AGRICULTURE, AND THE CATTLE INDUSTRY AS A PART OF IT, IS THE MOST BASIC AND VITAL INDUSTRY IN THIS NATION. AMERICANS SEEM TO FORGET THAT FACT THESE DAYS. AND WHEN YOU CAN FIND LITTLE IN THE NEWSPAPERS EXCEPT ABOUT IMPEACHMENT AND INFLATION, IT MAY BE UNDERSTANDABLE.

LAST WEEK I NOTED THAT A RECORD-BREAKING NUMBER OF STRIKES ARE IN PROGRESS ACROSS THE NATION. GOVERNMENT REPORTS INDICATED THAT 588 STRIKES WERE GOING ON ALL AT THE SAME TIME.

NO STRIKES IN AGRICULTURE

CATTLEMEN DON'T GO ON STRIKE. I SOMETIMES WONDER WHAT THE PEOPLE IN THE CITIES WOULD DO IF RANCHERS SUDDENLY WENT ON STRIKE IN THE MIDDLE OF CALVING SEASON, OR IF FARMERS WENT ON STRIKE IN THE MIDDLE OF HARVEST.

THE GENERAL PUBLIC DOES NOT FULLY UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE AND PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURE. THAT ATTITUDE IS REFLECTED MORE AND MORE IN CONGRESS. WE HAVE SEEN A GROWING RELUCTANCE IN CONGRESS TO PASS ANY MEASURE BENEFICIAL TO AGRICULTURE.

ACTION ON LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY

ON TUESDAY, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES BARELY PASSED THE EMERGENCY LIVESTOCK CREDIT ACT BY A VOTE OF 210 TO 204. BECAUSE OF THIS NARROW MARGIN, THOSE OF US IN THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE ACCEPTED THE WEAKER HOUSE VERSION, AND AFTER IT WAS CONFIRMED BY THE SENATE, IT WAS SENT TO THE PRESIDENT FOR SIGNATURE.

3.

THIS BILL IS EXPECTED TO COST THE GOVERNMENT VIRTUALLY NOTHING. IT NEITHER SUBSIDIZES NOR BAILS OUT THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY. IT DOES GIVE LIVESTOCK PRODUCERS WHO HAVE BEEN FORCED CLOSE TO BANKRUPTCY A CHANCE TO GET ENOUGH CREDIT TO WEATHER THIS DEPRESSION IN THE MARKET. BY PREVENTING THE LOSS OF A SIZEABLE PORTION OF OUR LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY, IT SHOULD ALSO AVOID HIGHER PRICES OF MEAT FOR CONSUMERS IN THE LONG RUN.

UNFORTUNATELY, THE EMERGENCY CREDIT ACT DOES NOT RESOLVE THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEM IN THE INDUSTRY -- DEPRESSED PRICES. I HAVE BEEN WORKING ON THIS PROBLEM. ALTHOUGH WE HAVE SEEN SOME RECOVERY IN PRICES, IT HAS BEEN INADEQUATE.

LAST WEEK, THE EUROPEANS EXTENDED AND TIGHTENED THEIR BAN ON BEEF IMPORTS. CONTRARY TO THE EXPECTATIONS OF SECRETARY BUTZ, THE EUROPEANS ARE OBVIOUSLY NOT COOPERATING WITH US. WE IN THE GOVERNMENT HAVE AN OBLIGATION FIRST TO OUR OWN CATTLEMAN -- NOT TO THE EUROPEANS, THE AUSTRALIANS OR ANYBODY ELSE. I HAVE REPEATEDLY URGED THE IMPOSITION OF CURBS ON MEAT IMPORTS AND DID SO AGAIN THIS PAST WEDNESDAY IN A TELEGRAM TO SECRETARY BUTZ.

LACK OF UNDERSTANDING IN CONGRESS

BUT A BASIC PROBLEM LIES IN CONGRESS IN ITS MISUNDERSTANDING OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PROBLEMS OF AGRICULTURE. IN A MAJOR ACTION THIS WEEK, FOR EXAMPLE, THE SENATE EXEMPTED LABOR DISPUTES FROM THE AUTHORITY OF THE CONSUMER PROTECTION AGENCY BILL. I HAVE PREPARED AN AMENDMENT TO EXEMPT AGRICULTURE FROM THE ACT, BUT WHEN THE SENATE WILL NOT ACT ON MY BILL TO BAN MEAT IMPORTS, I CANNOT BE CONFIDENT THAT THE VOTE ON MY AMENDMENT WILL BE FAVORABLE.

5.

[NEXT YEAR, IF REELECTED, I WILL BE THE RANKING REPUBLICAN IN THE SENATE AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE. IF KANSAS VOTERS RETURN ME TO THE SENATE AND THAT POSITION, I INTEND TO USE MY FULL AUTHORITY TO PREVENT THE UNNECESSARY EXPANSION OF AGENCIES LIKE OSHA AND EPA AND THEIR REGULATION OF AGRICULTURE. IT WILL BE A TOUGH AND ON-GOING FIGHT. THE NUMER OF FARM CONSTITUENTS IS DWINDLING AND THOSE OF US CONCERNED WITH AGRICULTURE WILL HAVE TO WORK EVEN HARDER.]

THE CATTLEMEN AND FARMERS I HAVE TALKED TO DO NOT WANT MORE GOVERNMENT REGULATION. THEY WANT THE FREEDOM TO DO WHAT THEY DO BEST -- PRODUCE HIGH QUALITY FOOD.

CONTROL OF ANTHRAX

THE CONGRESS AND THE GOVERNMENT CAN WORK IN A BENEFICIAL PARTNERSHIP WITH STOCKMEN. A GOOD EXAMPLE OF THAT ARE THE EFFORTS BEING MADE PRESENTLY TO CONTROL ANTHRAX.

WHILE THE CONTROL OF ANTHRAX IS BASICALLY A MATTER UNDER STATE JURISDICTION, THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE IS PROVIDING IMPORTANT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE. THE DISTRIBUTION OF ANTHRAX VACCINE HAS BEEN EXPEDITED. THE QUARANTINE PLACED ON AREAS IN QUESTION SHOULD HELP PREVENT THE SPREAD OF THE DISEASE INTO KANSAS.

ALSO RELATED TO THE SPREAD OF DISEASE IS THE ANIMAL HEALTH RESEARCH ACT WHICH WAS PASSED BY THE SENATE LAST MONDAY AND WHICH IS EXPECTED TO RECEIVE FINAL ACTION BY THE HOUSE SOON. THIS MEASURE WOULD AUTHORIZE \$42 MILLION FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS FOR RESEARCH ON SHIPPING FEVER, ANTHRAX AND OTHER DISEASES.

7.

IN SUMMARY, WE HAVE MADE SOME PROGRESS IN PROVIDING A BETTER
OUTLOOK FOR THE CATTLE INDUSTRY. WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO AND THE ROAD
IS NOT LIKELY TO BE EASY. I INTEND TO CONTINUE MY EFFORTS IN THE SENATE
AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY AND
AGRICULTURE IN GENERAL.

THANK YOU.

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