

STATEMENT BY SENATOR BOB DOLE

ABILENE, TEXAS

APRIL 30, 1978

THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION IS APPARENTLY INTENT ON FORCING TEXAS CATTLEMEN AND OTHER AGRICULTURAL PRODUCERS TO BEAR THE BRUNT OF THE BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION.

FOR OVER A YEAR, PRESIDENT CARTER SIMPLY FORGOT ABOUT INFLATION. THE ADMINISTRATION DID NOTHING WHILE INFLATION SLOWLY STARTED CREEPING BACK UP TO NEAR DOUBLE-DIGIT LEVELS. NOW -- IN THE PAST FEW WEEKS -- A CONSISTENT, WELL-PUBLICIZED CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN ORCHESTRATED BY THE PRESIDENT AND HIS COUNCIL ON WAGE AND PRICE STABILITY AGAINST NEARLY EVERY LEGISLATIVE EFFORT TO HELP AMERICA'S FARMERS AND RANCHERS.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS FOUND HIS WHIPPING BOY FOR THE INFLATION FIGHT AND HE APPARENTLY INTENDS TO CONTINUE TO THWART ALL MEANINGFUL LEGISLATION FOR AMERICAN AGRICULTURE. FIRST, IT WAS THE EMERGENCY FARM BILL WHICH CONTAINED THE "FLEXIBLE PARITY" TARGET PRICE CONCEPT FOR COTTON AND GRAIN FARMERS WHICH WAS KILLED BY WILDLY EXAGGERATED COST AND FOOD SUPPLY ESTIMATES FROM THE ADMINISTRATION. NOW, THE ADMINISTRATION'S WAGE AND PRICE COUNCIL WANTS TO KILL OUR BILL WHICH WOULD REDUCE THE LEVEL OF MEAT IMPORTS DURING TIMES OF HIGH DOMESTIC SUPPLY.

I THINK AMERICAN CATTLEMEN DESERVE SOME PROTECTION. I DON'T THINK THEY SHOULD BE SINGLED OUT FOR AN INORDINATE SHARE OF THE BURDEN OF FIGHTING INFLATION. NOR SHOULD TEXAS COTTON AND GRAIN FARMERS BE ASKED TO ACCEPT DISASTROUSLY LOW PRICES FOR THEIR PRODUCTS. BUT THAT IS PRECISELY WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER WANTS.

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