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## Miles City Livestock and Beef Imports

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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MILES CITY

LIVESTOCK AND BEEF IMPORTS

The cattle industry is one of the most important industries in Montana and particularly so here in eastern Montana. In recent weeks I have been again receiving disturbing reports about the effect certain increased imports are having on the domestic livestock industry.

There has been much in the way of conflicting information as to what is being imported and how it is affecting the local situation. I have not been entirely satisfied with the responses I have received from the Department of Agriculture and the U. S. Tariff Commission, so I am now in the process of obtaining detailed information on these imports, to determine just how serious it is and what recourse is available to the domestic industry. I hope to have this information soon after my return to Washington and if the matter is of serious proportions I will certainly discuss it with the authorities within the Administration.

I am today releasing the letter which I wrote to the Secretary of Agriculture which may be of some interest.

United States Senate  
Office of the Majority Leader  
Washington, D.C.

May 18, 1963

Honorable Orville Freeman  
Secretary of Agriculture  
Department of Agriculture  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The enclosed letter.... is illustrative of the growing concern that exists in Montana and elsewhere about the increasing importation of cattle and beef. I am aware of the Department's position, as well as that of the U. S. Tariff Commission, but I feel that the present situation demands an immediate review of the effect imports of cattle and beef are having on the domestic livestock industry.

I would like a memorandum from your office outlining the proper procedure for the industry to seek relief in obtaining an adjustment of these import quotas, administrative as well as legislative possibilities. Also, I would like a complete statistical breakdown of cattle and beef imports, by category, for the years 1959, 1960, 1961, and 1962, and on a monthly basis for the period since June of 1962.

This information would be valuable to me in analyzing the present situation and determining how best the livestock industry in this country might be aided. Protection and support of the livestock industry by the Federal Government has been traditionally limited to trade regulation. Subsidization of the domestic livestock industry is not desirable and if we can aid the industry with appropriate import adjustments, we certainly should work toward this end.

Please return the enclosure with your reply and the information requested above would be appreciated at your earliest convenience.

With best personal wishes, I am

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Mike Mansfield