

University of Montana

## ScholarWorks at University of Montana

---

Mike Mansfield Speeches, Statements and Interviews

Mike Mansfield Papers

---

3-5-1964

### Congressional Record - The Cattle Industry Bill S. 2525

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield\\_speeches](https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches)

**Let us know how access to this document benefits you.**

---

#### Recommended Citation

Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Congressional Record - The Cattle Industry Bill S. 2525" (1964). *Mike Mansfield Speeches, Statements and Interviews*. 559.

[https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield\\_speeches/559](https://scholarworks.umt.edu/mansfield_speeches/559)

This Speech is brought to you for free and open access by the Mike Mansfield Papers at ScholarWorks at University of Montana. It has been accepted for inclusion in Mike Mansfield Speeches, Statements and Interviews by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks at University of Montana. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@mso.umt.edu](mailto:scholarworks@mso.umt.edu).

my position may not do me much in the way of good, but I dare say in the long run it may well react to my benefit.

With me, this is not a political issue. What I am seeking for the cattle industry is a solution of the difficulties which confront it. My distinguished colleague the junior Senator from Montana [Mr. METCALF] and I have been working at this task assiduously for more than a year. We have been aware of the problem from personal observation, from talks with cattlemen, visiting cattle ranches and processing plants, and meeting with the representatives of the Montana Cattlemen's Association and the National Cattlemen's Association. Our views have been expressed jointly to the Tariff Commission, although neither of us believes that a tariff or a rise in tariffs is the answer to the problems which confront this most important industry.

We both believe that the answer lies in quotas based on an average extending over the past 5 years. We both believe, so far as the American market is concerned, that it should be primarily for the American cattle and cattle processing industry to operate in.

Because of my personal interest in this matter, on February 10th I introduced a bill, S. 2525, which has something on the order of 20 to 25 sponsors. The bill, introduced initially by my distinguished colleague [Mr. METCALF], sought to put the matter into a legislative form so that it would, under proper procedures, be considered by the appropriate Senate committee; and in the hearings to be conducted all segments of the cattle industry, the producer, the processor and all the others, would be given the opportunity to air their views.

After this would come a consensus which would seek to bring about a solution to the difficulties in which the cattlemen find themselves at the present time.

I personally visited with the distinguished Chairman of the Finance Committee, the Senator from Virginia [Mr. BYRD], and he told me, and has told me since, that his committee is prepared to hold hearings on the bill introduced by the Senators from Montana and others.

I believe this is the proper way to operate in this field. I believe it would be a mistake to confuse beef imports with questions covering wheat and cotton, and the Lord knows what else, before we get through. So I would hope that, with these remarks as a foundation, Senators who may be just as much affected by this problem as I am would consider all of its implications, and recognize that a promise has been made that hearings will be held. That promise has been made by one of the most distinguished Members of this body, the Senator from Virginia [Mr. BYRD]. To me, his word is gospel.

I invite the attention of Senators to some communications which I have received. This is one dated February 29, from Mr. E. W. McMillan, executive vice president of the American National Cattlemen's Association.

DEAR MR. MANSFIELD: The cattlemen are certainly most appreciative of your efforts to bring about a reasonable and permanent

Mr. MANSFIELD. There has been no dearth of debate on the Hruska beef amendment. I feel that, while I disagree with the amendment and shall oppose it as vigorously as I can, the distinguished senior Senator from Nebraska has performed a service in publicizing the fight faced by the cattlemen and the situation which confronts them at the present time.

I point out that of all the segments of our agricultural economy, the most independent, the most rugged, and the most individualistic has been the cattlemen. They have stayed away from the Government as much as they possibly could. They have conducted themselves with great integrity and discretion. They have, in effect, over the years, pulled themselves up by their own bootstraps.

The cattle industry, however, is facing a serious situation today; and I believe I can speak as authoritatively on this subject as any other Senator, because I come from a State whose primary industry is agriculture, and in which the cattle industry plays a most significant part.

Therefore, I would say that politically



solution to the economic impact excessive imports are having on the price structure of our product. Your bill, S. 2525, along with some of our suggested amendments, will certainly correct this obvious inequity.

We were most pleased during our trip to Washington last week to have an opportunity to visit with you about this proposal. I am confident that speedy attention to this proposal will be in the best interest of our total economy.

Once again, we do appreciate your cooperation and assistance and urge that you continue to use your influence in bringing about any early enactment of your legislative proposal, S. 2525.

Cordially,

C. W. McMillan.

Copies were sent to the president of the Montana Cattlemen's Association and to the secretary of the Montana Cattlemen's Association.

I mentioned the fact that we should not confuse this situation with wheat and cotton, which are the primary products before us, and are the basis for the proposed legislation reported by the Committee on Agriculture and Forestry.

I hold in my hand a telegram from Harold Tremain, the State director of the Nebraska Wheat Growers. I do not know Mr. Tremain but this telegram came in a day or so ago.

This afternoon we understood the Senate will vote on the wheat and cotton bill which included at this moment the beef amendment submitted by Senator HRUSKA. We feel that the beef problem should be considered separate and not a part of the wheat and cotton bill and that we would recommend support of the Mansfield bill on beef.

HAROLD TREMAIN,

State Director, Nebraska Wheat Growers.

Today, I received a letter from a couple of constituents of mine in Billings, Mont., which I should like to read.

DEAR SENATOR MANSFIELD: We note with great relief, the action being instituted to control the beef import situation. The last 2 years have been disastrous to the feeding operations in this State. Many have gone under, as you must know. We speak from very sad experience, and the galling part is to be reading of the thousands of pounds of beef being imported every week, then turn to the classified section to look for a job. The commercial feeding operation with which we were associated had to close down due to the fantastically low fat cattle prices.

It would seem, however, that the beef import problem is of great enough importance to entitle it to consideration on its own merits. We fail to see why it is necessary to attach ourselves to the wheat and cotton problem. All we ask is a chance to do business under ordinary circumstances of good healthy competition—from our neighbors, fellow stockmen, and fellow taxpayers. The urban population of the United States must be made to realize that the men who raise their beef are a major industry in their own right.

The cattlemen and sheepmen are a group unto themselves and as such are entitled to legislation of their own.

May I say here that we are not complaining about the work that is being done by those in Washington who are interested in our problem. Only that more emphasis should be placed on the fact that the livestock industry in the United States faces very black days unless we can be recognized as an independent industry.

Rather than leave it up to the foreign countries as to how much they are willing to cut down on their exports to this country, can't the United States determine how

much is imported, after the American beef raiser is given his due consideration.

Thank you very much for all of your support to the stockgrowers. We realize that our knowledge of all of the ramifications of foreign policy, and so forth, is very slight. Our interest is in our own problem. The livestock business is our life. We can't let it die without a fight.

Respectfully,

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator from Montana has expired.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I may proceed for an additional 2 minutes.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Montana is recognized for 2 additional minutes.

Mr. MANSFIELD. I urge my colleagues in the Senate, as earnestly as I can, to give consideration to the bill already introduced, which has in excess of 20 cosponsors, and that they take the word of the distinguished chairman of the Finance Committee, the senior Senator from Virginia [Mr. BYRD], that hearings will be held, that this matter will be attended to in the proper procedural way, that it will be considered independently, and that it should not be tied to wheat and cotton or other kind of agricultural legislation.

That is all I have to say at this time.

Mr. ROBERTSON. Mr. President, will the Senator yield?

Mr. MANSFIELD. I yield.

Mr. ROBERTSON. I remind the Senator that I served for 10 years on the House Ways and Means Committee. The House Ways and Means Committee is very jealous of its constitutional right to initiate tax and tariff legislation.

In the 31 years that I have served in Congress, I have never known it to accept a tariff bill that had originated on the Senate side.

I favor relief for our cattlemen, but the pending amendment is not the correct approach.

If we add the amendment to the bill, it will go to the Ways and Means Committee, and that is the last we shall ever see of it.

Mr. MANSFIELD. That is true. However, I must say that we should express our debt to the Senator from Nebraska [Mr. HRUSKA] for giving this issue the publicity which it has been given, because this is a vital matter to an important segment of our economy.

Insofar as hearings are concerned, they have been promised in the Committee on Finance and will be held. This matter will be considered independently, and everyone concerned will have an opportunity to express his opinion in a proper way.