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Statement by Mike Mansfield - Beef Imports

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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April 7, 1964

STATEMENT OF SENATOR MIKE MANSFIELD (D., MONTANA)

Following is the gist of a press release after
the Leadership breakfast at the White House.

I was happy to receive the news that Australia this year will reduce its imports of beef, mutton, veal and lamb by 170 million pounds or 29% of 1963 and New Zealand 50 million pounds of the same or 22% under its 1964 imports. This comes to a total of 220 million pounds less in 1964 than in 1963 or a 27% reduction.

I am glad to note also that the Secretary of Defense has placed orders for 36 million pounds of beef for our overseas bases, plus 18 million pounds of beef to be put in cold storage. Furthermore, the Agriculture Department has been authorized to spend \$20 million for the purchase of beef for school lunch programs and other projects.

This is a step in the right direction but is not by any means the complete answer. I am delighted to note that the McGee investigation of chain store practices is looking into the situation wherein the cattlemen get low prices and the consumer receives none of the benefit. This factor must be inquired into thoroughly to see what its effect is on the low prices for cattle.

May I say that my interest is in the stock growers who raise cattle for a living, not in the "side-line ranchers", the oil men, doctors and those of other professions who invest in cattle ranches as subsidiaries to their main means of livelihood.

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