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Congressional Record S. 18932 - World Wide Oil Problem

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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MIKE MANSFIELD
MONTANA

United States Senate
Office of the Majority Leader
Washington, D.C. 20510

October 15, 1974

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. President:

As the Congress prepares for the recess and a return to its constituencies, I wish to take this means of restating my great concern about the economic plight of one of the most important segments of our society - agriculture.

The rancher is receiving two to three times less for his calves and steers than he did a year ago. The price of beef in the consumer market has not dropped appreciably. The cost of machinery, feed, and supplies are at an all time high. Emergency loans have been made available but this has offered little assistance, especially to the younger and smaller operators. As you know, there are new reports of voluntary slaughters of large numbers of cattle. I have had offers to contribute ten percent of a herd to overseas relief programs if something could be done to increase the price of cattle at the auction market.

I respectfully suggest that the Secretary of Agriculture be instructed to do two things. First, reimpose beef import quotas as authorized under Public Law 88-482. I believe in a free world trade but we must also consider our own. I know of no major beef consuming nation that has not imposed import controls on U. S. beef. I see no reason that we should not act accordingly and impose quotas on beef exported to this country. Past experience has proven that quotas do work in the interests of the domestic livestock industry. Second, a determined and sincere effort must be made to determine the exact reasons for the wide spread between the price of cattle as sold at the auction yard and the price of packaged beef in the supermarket. The large difference is out of proportion.

The President

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October 15, 1974

Economic conditions in the United States are, perhaps, the most serious problems faced by the Executive and Legislative Branches of our government. We face a growing split between the livestock operator and the grain grower, a situation that cannot be tolerated. Your determination to take steps to solidify and place the agricultural segment of our economy on a sound footing would be appreciated by all.

Respectfully,

Mike Mansfield