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Beef and Cattle Industry - Letter to the President

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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

June 7, 1974

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

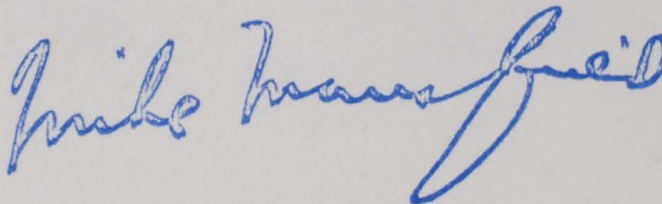
Dear Mr. President:

In recent days, presentations have been made to the White House staff in behalf of a seriously depressed livestock industry. I wish to join with my colleagues in asking that you give this situation your personal attention. We cannot permit such a vital element of our economy to flounder as it is now. Action must be taken to close the gap between prices received by the livestock producers and the prices charged by the packers and retailers.

The reasons for this predicament are varied. The main point is that something has to be done now to protect the ranchers of our Nation. I am joining with several of my western colleagues in the introduction of legislation to provide emergency assistance to the cattle industry under the Department of Agriculture's loan program. These loans are vital to feed lot operators. I also concur in the recommendations that the Federal Government introduce a beef purchase program for military and school lunches. Most importantly, I ask that you exercise your authority in reimposing strict import quotas on beef and livestock products which compete with those in this Country. As you know, I have consistently supported this safety valve and the present situation underscores the need to reimpose these quotas.

Your cooperation and assistance in this matter are vital. I am convinced that we can have a strong and healthy livestock industry if some reasonable attitudes can be returned to the price of beef in the retail market.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Mansfield". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.