

10-15-1974

Cattle Prices and Import Quotes - Letter to President

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, on behalf of the distinguished Republican leader (Mr. HUGH SCOTT) and myself, I send to the desk an amendment and ask for its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment will be stated.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

On page 3, line 18, strike out all after the word Cyprus and insert:

Provided, That the President is authorized to suspend the provisions of this section during the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this joint resolution and ending on December 10, 1974, if he determines that such suspension will further negotiations for a peaceful resolution of the Cyprus conflict.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I have discussed the unanimous-consent request I am about to make with the distinguished chairman of the Appropriations Committee (Mr. McCLELLAN), the distinguished Senator from Missouri (Mr. EAGLETON), the distinguished Republican leader (Mr. HUGH SCOTT), and others; and I ask unanimous consent that there be a 20-minute time limitation on the pending amendment, 12 minutes to the distinguished Senator from Missouri and 4 minutes each to the Republican leader and the Senator from Montana now speaking.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HART). Is there objection? Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MANSFIELD. Mr. President, I yield myself 3 minutes. We made it very clear on October 9 during the discussion of House Joint Resolution 1131 that the distinguished Senator from Missouri was on solid legal ground so far as the law was concerned. The Congress and only the Congress can change a law. It has been our design to offer to the Congress the opportunity to change the law to best represent the interests of this Nation.

The Senator from Missouri agreed fully that if any changes in the law were to be made, they were not to be made downtown, but they were to be made by Congress, which initiated and inaugurated the law in the first place.

Everyone knows, Mr. President, that I am one of the most stubborn opponents of our foreign aid programs. Some people seem to think I am against NATO, because I have been advocating a graduated withdrawal of U.S. troops and military personnel from Western Europe and around the world over the past several years. But I have always made it plain that I believe in NATO, which in

my opinion is our first line of defense, and that two of the most sturdy links in that chain of defense happened to be Turkey and Greece.

At the present time, Greece has stated that it is out of NATO. If the continuing resolution as passed by the House goes into effect there is a possibility of adverse interpretation that could lead to a fourfold danger, as I see it, to our defense posture:

First. A tilt toward the Soviet Union on the part of Turkey, which has a 1,000-mile common frontier with the Soviet Union;

Second. Turkey might become a more active participant in the affairs of the Middle East, which it has been standing aloof from up to the present time;

Third. It might worsen the situation between Greece and Turkey, hindering negotiations rather than hastening them; and

Fourth. It would do the Republic of Cyprus no good, because the Turks have 40,000 troops there, they occupy about one-half the land there, they have control of all the communications, and any inducement to Turkey either partially or completely to withdraw from the island might evaporate. Because of these possibilities, I propose the language as a substitute for the House language.