ASUM president opposes appointment of Butz to agricultural post

University of Montana--Missoula. Office of University Relations

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APPOINTMENT OF BUTZ
TO AGRICULTURAL POST

MISSOULA--

The student body president at the University of Montana has written
Sen. Mike Mansfield urging Mansfield to join Sen. Lee Metcalf in opposing confirmation
of Dr. Earl Butz as Secretary of Agriculture.

John Christensen, Hobson, president of the Associated Students at UM, told Mansfield
confirmation of Butz is "not in the best interests of the Montana farmer, the Montana
consumer, nor the Montana student."

"Many of our students depend directly or indirectly upon agriculture to support their
educational endeavors," Christensen wrote. "Disastrous agricultural policies can
terminate their academic careers--and there is every indication Dr. Butz would pursue
policies first initiated under Ezra Taft Benson when Dr. Butz was part of the Administra-
tion.

"All students are consumers, dependent upon the Department of Agriculture for whole-
some, healthy foods," Christensen continued. "At a time Dr. Butz could have privately
taken action to ensure adequate inspection procedures, three Ralston-Purina plants
failed to meet minimum government standards.

"The Department of Agriculture should be headed by a man of vision who will initiate
policies to support the family farmer. The Department of Agriculture should be headed
by a man who will ensure aggressive food inspection standards.

"Dr. Butz is not that man," Christensen concluded.

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