

Office of the White House Press Secretary  
(Sioux Falls, South Dakota)

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THE WHITE HOUSE

ADDITIONAL REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT AT THE  
SOUTH DAKOTA REPUBLICAN STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE RALLY  
SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

I am particularly disturbed by the wasteful protest slaughtering of calves in Wisconsin at a time when we are trying to increase the food supply. Yet I recognize the frustration that prompted the farmers to stage such a shocking and wasteful demonstration. But their action contributes nothing toward a solution to their problem or to the problem of inflation which we all face.

I am aware of the cost-price squeeze in which livestock producers and feeders find themselves. I have requested a full report on this situation. I will meet within the next two weeks at the White House with farmers and ranchers to seek their solution.

I am disturbed by the disparity between the reduced earnings of the cattle growers and the higher prices charged to consumers throughout the nation. I am asking the new Council on Wage-Price Stability to examine the reasons why there is such a gap between what is paid to the farmer and what must be paid on the other end of the line by the individual consumer. Something is obviously wrong. I intend to do what I can to resolve this situation.

The livestock producers obviously cannot tolerate a situation in which calves cost more to raise than they bring at the market. But there is certainly a better way of redressing grievances than by the drastic and wasteful destruction of our food supply.

There's another problem which concerns me greatly -- the tremendous cost-price squeeze in which America's dairymen find themselves. I met last Friday at the White House with a representative group of dairy farmers and Congressional leaders who presented the case of this sector of the economy very effectively. I am very sympathetic with their problem.

I understand the concern of domestic dairy producers that the United States dairy support price system should not be allowed to be undermined by efforts of foreign dairy producers -- some of whom are seeking to shift the burden of their own cost-price problems onto the U. S. market aided by artificial incentives from their government.

Because of my concern about the economic problems dairymen are facing, I am today announcing that no action will be taken to change the present system of dairy import quotas without a thorough review of market conditions and a full opportunity for our dairy producers to be heard at that time.

I am convinced that over the long haul the American farmer can compete against any farm producer in the world. I look forward to negotiations with other nations which will achieve an undistorted and fair dairy market world-wide.

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