

OCTOBER 30, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

The meeting with representatives of the Livestock and Poultry Growers began at 2:10 p.m. and concluded at 4:20 p.m. The President participated in the meeting for about one and a half hours, departing the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

The President opened the meeting and stated that he was very much aware of the problems faced by the livestock and poultry growers, and would be meeting with similar groups later this week in Portland, Oregon, and Grand Junction, Colorado. He also reiterated his statement in Lincoln, Nebraska, that he had no intention to change the import quotas on dairy products. The President then said it was much more important to listen to their views than for him to speak, so the meeting was opened for each of the participants to express their views and recommendations.

The group discussed in detail the difficult cost-price squeeze all segments of the livestock industry are facing.

They also identified a number of steps the government could take to assist the industry. Some of these include:

1. Impose restrictions on meat imports.
2. Remove or ease the limitations and barriers on U. S. cattle exports to Japan, Western Europe and Canada.
3. Review support price level of dairy products.
4. Remove impediments to increased productivity, such as archaic transportation practices, government regulations, etc.
5. Added support for production research.
6. No imposition of wage and price controls.

The President remarked that Japan's ban on meat imports would be high on his agenda for discussion. He also remarked that the pending Trade Bill gives the President the authority to lower tariffs or impose higher tariffs, and this would greatly assist negotiations. The President also reiterated his firm opposition to wage and price controls.

Several participants mentioned that the government, through over regulation, greatly hinder productions, and/or increase costs.

Several people asked that the President amend the EPA order banning the use of chemical toxicants for predator control. This greatly affected their production (sheep and turkeys particularly).

It should be pointed out there were conflicting recommendations on many items, and no consensus was given on any subject, nor asked for.

The President, following his opening remarks, spent most of the time listening to the various presentations and made no commitments or promises.