

**The original documents are located in Box 13, folder “Agriculture Department (4),  
February - March 1974” of the Norman Ross Files, 1974-75  
at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.**

### **Copyright Notice**

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted material. Norman E. Ross, Jr. donated to the United States of America his copyrights in all of his unpublished writings in National Archives collections. Works prepared by U.S. Government employees as part of their official duties are in the public domain. The copyrights to materials written by other individuals or organizations are presumed to remain with them. If you think any of the information displayed in the PDF is subject to a valid copyright claim, please contact the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary Records**  
**Dept. of Agriculture**

Date: **Feb. 3, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **The President**

From: **Jack Stein, Sweetwater, Texas**

Date: **Jan. 9**

Subject: **Asking that the President ease the financial burden placed on farmers and ranchers all over this nation.**

R/p

By direction of the President:  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

*ansd 2-18*



(White House Suspense Copy)



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary's Records  
Room 125-W**

Date: **February 4, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

~~XXXX~~ Draft reply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.

~~XXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to  
reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other  
appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered,  
please telephone the undersigned immediately,  
Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when  
draft reply, memorandum, or comment is re-  
quested.

### REMARKS:

**Please supply an appropriate draft response and return ENTIRE file to  
Norm Ross, Room 218, OEOB, Domestic Council, Telephone 456-6554.**

### Description:

~~XXXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **President Ford**

From: **Lawrence VanVoorhies, Chairman - Historic Hoosier Hills**

Date: **January 21, 1975**

Subject: **Urges that the Forestry Incentives Program be retained.**

By direction of the President:

*Norm Ross*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council**

*ansd  
3-5*  
**NEROSS/ee**



(White House Suspense Copy)

# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary's Records  
Room 125-W**

Date: **February 4, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

~~XXXXX~~ Draft reply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.

~~XXXXXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to  
reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other  
appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered,  
please telephone the undersigned immediately,  
Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when  
draft reply, memorandum, or comment is re-  
quested.

### REMARKS:

Please supply an appropriate response for each of the letters attached and  
return ENTIRE file to Norm Ross, Room 218, OEOB, Domestic Council,  
Telephone 456-6554.

### Description:

~~XXXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: Other:

To: **President Ford**

From: **George Stoddard - Dennis McWhorter**

Date: **January 22, 1975 - January 8, 1975 respectively**

Subject: **Economic crisis in the livestock enterprises.**

By direction of the President:

*15*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council**

*Encl  
218*  
**NEROSS/ee**



(White House Suspense Copy)

# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary's Records  
Room 125-W**

Date: **February 4, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.
- \_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- \_\_\_\_ Direct reply.
- \_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.
- \_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- \_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- \_\_\_\_ For your information.
- \_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

**Please supply an appropriate draft response and return ENTIRE file to Norm Ross, Room 218, OEOB, Domestic Council, Telephone 456-6554.**

### Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **President Ford**  
From: **George M. Shell**  
Date: **January 11, 1975**  
Subject: **Economic problems of the dairy farmers.**

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council**

*ansd 2-20*  
**NEROSS/ee**



(White House Suspense Copy)

Suggested response to Mr. George M. Shell

Your recent letter to President Ford has been referred to this office for reply. Secretary Butz and the Department of Agriculture staff are concerned about inflation and the current cost-price squeeze faced by dairy and livestock producers. This problem has been especially acute for farmers who must purchase feed grain and concentrate rations.

Farmers planted more acres of feed grains and soybeans last year, but hot dry weather during the summer and early frosts last fall took a heavy toll on crop yields. Feed supplies were tight and prices were higher than usual during the latter part of 1974. However, during the most recent two-month period there has been considerable decline in the cost of feed to dairymen. While feed prices have been falling there has also been a steady rise in the farm price for milk.

On January 3, Secretary Butz announced an increase in the support price for manufacturing milk from \$6.57 to \$7.24 per hundredweight. The increase was effective immediately and will remain in effect through this marketing year and the next marketing year which ends March 31, 1976. The Secretary said this action was necessary because farm milk prices have declined while costs have remained at high levels.

The importance of maintaining a viable dairy industry during a period of rapidly changing economic conditions is a continuing concern of public officials and people employed at all levels of the production and distribution system. We appreciate your interest in this matter and want to assure you that our efforts are directed toward maintaining a healthy and prosperous dairy industry.



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: Secretary's Records  
125-W (Room)

Date: February 11, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ~~xxxxx~~ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
~~xxxxxxx~~ Undersigned's signature.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For your information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Please supply an appropriate draft response in 48 hours and return ENTIRE FILE To Norman Ross, Room 218, DEOB, Domestic Council, Telephone 456-6554

Description:

~~xxxxx~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: John O. Marsh  
From: Richard D. Chumney  
Date: January 2, 1975  
Subject: How we can best establish a permanent land base for agriculture

By direction of the President:

Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

NEROSS/ee

(White House Suspense Copy)



Suggested Response to January 2, 1975 Letter from Mr. Richard D. Chumney  
Regarding the Preservation and Expansion of the Livestock Industry in  
New Jersey.

Mr. Richard D. Chumney  
Director of the Division of Rural Resources  
Department of Agriculture  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Dick:

Thank you for your letter of January 2. I do appreciate hearing  
from you.

Your desire to solve the problems of how best to establish a  
permanent land base for agriculture in New Jersey and how best to  
plan and develop your rural areas for all concerned is commendable.

The Agricultural Research Service (ARS) has been involved in studying  
the use of sludge from municipal waste as a resource for agriculture.  
Although additional research is needed to ensure complete safety in  
applying sludge to cropland, shortages of conventional fertilizers  
have created increased interest in the use of this sludge on land.

We recognize that land application of sludge can be beneficial for  
soil improvement. Nevertheless, it is questionable whether the  
nutrients in sludge would be adequate to sustain optimum production  
without addition of commercial fertilizers.

ARS scientists have been investigating both the utility and the safety  
of using reclaimed nutrients from animal waste as a feed ingredient  
for livestock. Results of their research and the findings of a task  
force indicate several circumstances under which animal waste may be  
safely fed to animals. This information has been given to the Food  
and Drug Administration (FDA), and there has been continuing dialogue  
on the subject between their scientists and those on the ARS staff.  
The FDA is in the process of deciding on the use of animal waste as  
a feed ingredient.

We share your concern about the best use of military installations  
no longer needed for military purposes. Several military installations  
have been converted into research facilities by ARS.

We very much appreciate your observations about preserving and expanding  
the livestock industry in New Jersey and wish you every success in  
setting a pattern for the rest of the nation.



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary's Records

Date: February 12, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

~~xxxxx~~ Draft reply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.

~~xxxxxxxxx~~ Undersigned's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

~~xxxxx~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: President Ford

From: Arlen Erdahl

Date: February 6, 1975

Subject: Acquisition of land in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area.

By direction of the President:

*ansd 3-10*

Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council



NEROSS/ee

(White House Suspense Copy)

# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary's Records**

Date: **February 12, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ~~XXXX~~ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
~~XXXXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For your information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

~~XXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **President**

From: **John M. Monacella**

Date: **February 4, 1975**

Subject: **American Data System's food stamp application system.**

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Domestic Council**

*Unril 3-10*  
**NE ROSS/ee**



(White House Suspense Copy)



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

Completed

REFERRAL

To: Secretary Records  
Room 125-W  
Dept. of Agriculture

Date: Feb. 12, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☐ Draft reply for:  
☐ President's signature.  
☐ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☒ Direct reply.  
☒ Furnish information copy.
- ☐ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

☒

Letter: ☐ Telegram: ☐ Other: ☐

To: President Ford  
From: Delore Berglund, Scandia, Minn  
Date: Jan. 6, 1975  
Subject: Protesting Wool prices (low) and also ~~pro~~ protesting that rug made of Eng. wool instead of American wool, which will be used in the President's office.

By direction of the President:

R/p 456-6554



Norman E. Ross, Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

(White House Suspense Copy)



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
AGRICULTURAL STABILIZATION AND CONSERVATION SERVICE • WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

FEB 25 1975

Mrs. Dalore Berglund  
Old Field Road  
Scandia, Minnesota 55073

Dear Mrs. Berglund:

President Ford has asked us to acknowledge your letter of January 16 concerning protest to wool prices.

A reply is being prepared and should reach you in the near future.

Sincerely,

Elvin J. Person

~~Acting~~ Administrator

cc: Mr. Norman E. Ross, Assistant Director  
Domestic Council, White House





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

March 13, 1975

Mrs. Delore Berglund  
Old Field Road  
Scandia, Minnesota 55073

Dear Mrs. Berglund:

This is in further reply to your letter to President Ford regarding market prices for wool.

Your statement regarding the recent trend in market prices for wool is in general agreement with our understanding of the situation. After a period when prices for wool rose to an attractive level, market prices subsequently weakened and have since declined to less than half their former level. The same situation prevails with respect to the market prices of other fibers, both natural and man-made. For example, market prices for cotton have declined almost 40 percent over the past 12 months (farmers received 32 cents per pound for upland cotton during February 1975 as compared to 52 cents during February 1974).

The National Wool Act of 1954, as amended, provides for incentive payments to U. S. producers in order to encourage the domestic production of wool. The rate of payment is the percentage required to raise the national average market price received by all wool producers up to the statutory incentive price of 72 cents per pound. While no incentive payments were made to wool producers for the 1973 program, prices during 1974 were such that incentive payments will likely be made for the 1974 program. Such payments will be made as soon as final data are available with respect to average market prices for wool actually received by wool producers during the 1974 marketing year.

We appreciate your interest and hope 1975 will be a profitable year for you.

Sincerely,

CLAYTON YEUTTER  
Assistant Secretary

cc: Mr. Norman E. Ross, Assistant Director  
Domestic Council



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

Completed  
319

To: Secretary's Records

Date: February 12, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ~~XXXXX~~ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

~~XXXXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
To: President Ford  
From: Wendell R. Anderson  
Date: January 31, 1975  
Subject: Protest the decision to close the Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service office in Minneapolis.

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

NEROSS/ee



(White House Suspense Copy)

Subject: Honorable Wendell R. Anderson's Letter Protesting the Decision to Close the Minneapolis ASCS Commodity Office

USDA Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service's decision to close their Minneapolis Commodity Office was based on a continuing declining workload at both the Prairie Village, Kansas, office as well as the commodity office in Minneapolis. The Minneapolis office was established in 1963 with a workload that required 468 man-years of employment. Projections today, based on present and anticipated workload, would require approximately one-half of the man-years of employment that were required in 1963.

The productivity rates comparing the two offices represent the effectiveness of workload forecasting, not workload volume. The Minneapolis workload increased slightly above projections partly because of the increased price support on dairy. In contrast, the Kansas City office did not receive certain documentation from the grain trade needed to complete their units of work for credit in the productivity measurement system. This accounts for the difference in productivity rates, even though both were fully employed. Lack of total commodity workload, not inefficiency, was the factor that caused ASCS to reach the decision to combine its commodity offices at one location.

ASCS's study regarding the options for determining the proper location indicated that on the basis of cost alone - Minneapolis or Kansas City could be justified. The study did, however, indicate cost advantages for locating in Kansas City. There were other considerations, namely, ASCS presently has its management field offices at Kansas City. This office has approximately 500 employees supporting not only the Prairie Village Commodity Office but the Agency's 2800 county offices throughout the United States. There were inherent advantages to locating the commodity office near or with this function for savings in manpower and flexibility in personnel and space requirements. A second consideration involved the ADP facilities that are located at Kansas City. ASCS has planned for several years to utilize the USDA computer center for its integrated program and accounting system. This would support not only the commodity function but also the Agency's State and county functions.

Simply stated, other things being equal, the Agency had a choice of locating its commodity function near two major resources or at Minneapolis, 500 miles away. There are obvious advantages to the Agency in having its commodity functions near its management field offices as well as the ADP center.

The ASCS expects to accomplish the consolidation of the two offices for a one time expense of less than \$2,000,000. The savings in salary and lease expenses that will occur because of this consolidation are very real to the taxpayer. ASCS's study indicated a minimum of \$680,000 would be saved annually. Since this study, it is apparent that this savings will be higher. Certain actions,





such as the USDA Food and Nutrition Service's decision to locate its food stamp redemption program at Minneapolis, will save ASCS considerable expense in relocating the Minneapolis Commodity Office. Food and Nutrition Service's function will create a minimum of 40 positions in addition to utilizing some of the space being vacated by ASCS.

Employment data from the Civil Service Commission indicates Minnesota has 29,772 Federal employees. Not included in that figure are 297 ASCS county employees who are not counted as Federal employees. Approximately 32% of the Federal employees in Minnesota are located in the Minneapolis/St. Paul area. ASCS's commodity function represents less than 1% of the Federal employment in Minneapolis/St. Paul. With the anticipated number of employees who will relocate to Kansas City, with the employment opportunity created by Food and Nutrition Service, and with the Agency's aggressive placement program for those employees who cannot relocate, we feel that the impact on employees as well as the State of Minnesota will be minimal.





THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: Secretary's Records

Date: February 12, 1975

Completed  
3-15

ACTION REQUESTED

~~XXXXX~~ Draft reply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.

~~XXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

TWO PIECES OF CORRESPONDENCE

Description:

~~XXXXX~~ Letter: ~~XXXX~~ Telegram: Other:

To: President Ford

From: Libby Lightsey - Lee Spann President of the Colorado Cattlemens Association

Date: January 9, 1975 - January 16, 1975 respectively

Subject: Problems of the cattle industry.

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council



NEROSS/ee

(White House Suspense Copy)

Draft Reply to February 7 letter from Mr. Lee Spann, President  
Colorado Cattlemen's Association

---

Thank you for your letter of February 7 urging full imposition of meat import quotas.

For 1975, the level of permitted imports as computed by the formula specified in the Meat Import Law of 1964 is 1,074.3 million pounds, product weight. However, the law also provides for a 10 percent overage, so that the actual point at which the President may take action to limit imports is 1,181.7 million pounds. If imports are estimated to exceed this "trigger" point, the President must invoke quotas, but he may not reduce the level of imports permitted to less than 1,074.3 million pounds. Imports of meats subject to the law declined sharply last year from 1,356 million pounds in 1973 to 1,079 million pounds. In 1974, imports were below the "trigger" point for imposition of quotas.

The President has not abandoned his pledge of last fall to honor the intent of the Meat Import Law, if imports threaten to pick-up markedly during 1975. Imports of meat are threatening to pick-up and the President is taking steps to ensure that imports of meat subject to the Meat Import Law are limited. Rather than invoke quotas, he has decided to first try to negotiate voluntary agreements with supplying countries to limit imports to about 1,150 million pounds. The difference between this quantity and the quota level of 1,074.3 million pounds amounts to about one-half pound, carcass weight basis, per person in the United States compared with a total expected consumption rate of 230 pounds for all meats in 1975, and is expected to have a negligible impact on livestock and meat prices.

The advantage of voluntary agreements compared with quotas is that this approach is expected to make it easier for the United States to negotiate reductions in barriers to overseas sales of U.S. farm products. The productive capacity of U.S. agriculture far exceeds requirements for U.S. consumption. To keep this production plant fully employed the U.S. must export. In 1974, the U.S. exported about \$22 billion of farm products and imported \$10 billion. Exports of livestock products were valued at \$1.6 billion, including about 10 percent of our production of variety meats, and 40 to 50 percent of our production of tallow and hides.



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

Completed  
375-

To: Secretary's Records

Date: February 12, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ~~XXXX~~ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
~~XXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.
- \_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- \_\_\_\_ Direct reply.
- \_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.
- \_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- \_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- \_\_\_\_ For your information.
- \_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

~~XXXXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: President Ford  
From: John P. Farney  
Date: January 27, 1975  
Subject: Hungry people of the world need help - farmers need encouragement to produce maximum as a result of these hungry people.

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council



NEROSS/ee

(White House Suspense Copy)

Draft reply to Mr. John P. Farney

President Ford has asked us to reply to your letter concerning world hunger and American farming.

The recent World Food Conference in Rome has focused public attention, as seldom before, on hunger and food problems. We regard our good fortune and strength in the field of food as a global trust. We recognize the responsibilities we bear by virtue of our extraordinary productivity, our advanced technology, and our tradition of assistance. Urgent food problems in an increasingly interdependent world must be dealt with by concerted international action. We are now taking major constructive steps as a result of the World Food Conference in cooperation with other governments and international financial institutions.

The United States has already programmed for poorer nations about 3 million tons of grain for donation or at sharply-discounted prices under our Food-for-Peace Program so far this fiscal year. Because President Ford's Budget contains a major increase for U.S. food aid, that total will probably be well over 5 million tons by the end of the fiscal year next June 30. That amount would be about 2 million tons more than the previous year. Moreover, large grain transfers to hungry nations are being arranged not only through U.S. Food-for-Peace, but also through other means, such as Canadian, European, and Australian food aid or shipments financed by international organizations and other countries rich in monetary reserves.

Studies of the world food situation by the Economic Research Service, USDA, conclude the following: There are now critical food shortages in several nations, especially India and Bangladesh, where grain production in 1974 was lower than in 1973. However, grain supplies in most developing nations are up from last year. Long-run food shortages worldwide are possible, but by no means inevitable. Over the past 20 years, there has actually been an upward trend in food production and consumption per person in less-developed nations. This trend is likely to continue, provided these nations adopt effective policies to increase food production and receive the necessary technical assistance.

We remain committed to fight mass starvation wherever it may threaten, this year or in the future. This is a long-run commitment. To further it most effectively, we strongly endorse the major international effort recommended by the World Food Conference. Starvation must be prevented and hunger fought mainly by increasing food production in the less-developed nations themselves. Agricultural experts know it can be done. Specifically, the greatest challenge is to boost production in these nations among vast numbers of small, subsistence farmers who eat mainly the output of their own plots rather than purchased food. If these farmers can achieve greater production, not only can more people be fed but it may also be possible for them, individually or cooperatively, to store extra grain in their own localities to carry them over a bad year.



In the U.S. farm economy, the year 1974 was a comedown for farmers from 1973 when realized net farm income reached a record high \$32.2 billion. But it was second only to 1973 and around \$10 billion higher than in 1972 which at the time was considered a reasonably good year.

The 1973 increase in farm production expenses of \$12.3 billion far exceeded the increase in any other year. But it was still less than half of the increase in realized gross income that year. Thus the huge increase of around \$15 billion in realized net. In 1974 the situation was turned around. The increase in production expenses of \$10 billion was about double the estimated increase in realized gross, so realized net income was less than in 1973.

These income data are in current dollars, and we all know a dollar will buy less each year than it did the year before. In terms of dollars of constant purchasing power, the perspective changes. The income figures are still quite favorable but the margin over earlier years is substantially smaller.

These farm income figures are national aggregates and do not necessarily represent the situation for any individual farmer or even specific groups of farmers. This qualification is more applicable today than ever before, because both in 1973 and 1974, crop producers generally prospered while livestock producers did not.

President Ford is deeply concerned over the impact of rising energy costs to farmers and on retail food prices. To relieve farmers from the burden of higher fuel prices caused by the imposition of import fees on imported crude oil and petroleum products, the President has directed the Federal Energy Administration to develop a program for rebating increased fuel costs to farmers. While details of this program are not yet available, it is our understanding that the rebates will negate the increase in fuel prices caused by the imposition of import fees on imported petroleum.

In addition, USDA has taken a wide range of actions intended to improve market prices for beef, including substantial purchases of frozen ground beef for distribution under the National School Lunch Program. The Administration obtained legislation last year to provide for emergency loans to help livestock producers. Restraints on meat exports to the U.S. are being negotiated with nations which ship meat to us.

Although policies such as the above are constructive, Government is getting out of individual farm management as fast as it can. Price signals are now working to signal the balance needed between supply and demand. This means farmers have to run their businesses with more knowledge and foresight than in the past. Good farm management will return more of a premium than ever before.





In the last five years, our farm policies have become more export-oriented and more market-oriented. We are now entering major international trade negotiations with determination to greatly improve access for U.S. farm products in those world markets now restricted. In a free market system, based on worldwide trading, there is a good profit to be made in agriculture, but profits do not come with an ironclad guarantee. Money can also be lost. It is imperative to keep up with changing market conditions.





# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary Records  
Room 125 - W  
Department of the Agriculture

Date: ~~Jan~~ Feb. 12, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ~~XX~~ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
~~XX~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

~~XX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: Other:

To President Ford

From: Jim D. Jestis, V-P, First State Bank, Bokchito, Oklahoma 74726

Date: Jan. 31, 1975

Subject: Stop beef imports NOW

r/p 456-6554

By direction of the President:

Norman E. Ross, Jr.

Assistant Director

Domestic Council

ansd 3-11-75



(White House Suspense Copy)

# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary Records  
Room 125-W  
Dept. of Agr.

Date: Feb. 12, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: President Ford

From: Stephen G. Wenzel, State Repr. Minnesota

Date: ~~Jan~~ Jan. 27

Subject: Asking legislation or to declare Central and Southern Minnesota counties as disaster areas because of the Jan. snow blizzard

R/p

By direction of the President:

Norman Ross, Assistant Secy  
Director, Domestic Council



(White House Suspense Copy)

*Added 3-10-75*



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

MAR 4 1975

Mr. Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ross:

We are enclosing a draft reply of a letter to Honorable Stephen G. Wenzel in answer to his comments with regard to the severe January blizzard in Minnesota.

Sincerely,

James E. Bostic, Jr.  
Deputy Assistant Secretary

Enclosure



**Subject: Suggested reply to letter of January 27, 1975, from the  
Honorable Stephen G. Wenzel, Minnesota House of Representatives,  
Little Falls, Minnesota 56345**

**Honorable Stephen G. Wenzel  
Minnesota House of Representatives  
Little Falls, Minnesota 56345**

**Dear Mr. Wenzel:**

**President Ford has asked me to reply to your letter of January 27, 1975, concerning the need for financial assistance for Minnesota farmers and ranchers who have suffered losses and damage from the severe January blizzard.**

**Under Department of Agriculture procedures for making formal Farmers Home Administration (FmHA) Emergency (EM) loan designations, each county governing body must make its recommendation to Governor Wendell R. Anderson on the basis of information furnished by the FmHA County Supervisor relative to the disaster conditions. However, the FmHA State Director may authorize Emergency loans on an individual basis when 25 or less farmers in the county have been affected by the disaster and the county governing body has favorably recommended this action.**

**When more than 25 farmers are affected, the county governing body's recommendation will be sent directly to the Governor. On the basis of this information and his own investigation, the Governor may request the Secretary of Agriculture to make a formal designation. The Secretary has received a request from Governor Anderson for the designation of 11 counties in Minnesota for FmHA Emergency loan assistance because of the January blizzard. These counties are now under consideration in the Department. I am requesting the Minnesota FmHA State Director, Mr. Gordon F. Kleuk, 252 Federal Office Building and U.S. Courthouse, St. Paul, Minnesota 55101, telephone 612-725-7493, to advise you when a final decision on the designation of these counties has been made.**

**In addition to the regular FmHA Emergency loan program, the Emergency Livestock Credit Act of 1974, enacted on July 23, 1974, authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to guarantee loans made by private lending institutions to bona fide farmers and ranchers suffering economic difficulties who are primarily and directly engaged in livestock production for the purpose of breeding, raising, fattening, or marketing livestock. The guarantee may cover not more than 80 percent of any loss sustained on the loan. The interest will be at a rate agreed to by the lender and the borrower. Initially, repayment terms may be up to 3 years with the possibility of a 2-year extension when necessary. The amount any farmer or rancher may borrow under the guarantee is limited to \$250,000. This program is also administered by the FmHA. Individuals interested in applying for assistance should contact the agricultural lending institution where they do business.**



Honorable Stephen G. Wenzel

2

We are enclosing fact sheets which provide a general explanation of the FmHA Emergency loan programs. We assure you that the Department of Agriculture is endeavoring to assist farm families to remain on the farm.

Your comments and the concern you have shown are appreciated.

Enclosure





THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: Secretary's Records

Date: February 12, 1975

2-27-

*sent to office  
in 107-  
for off. handling*

ACTION REQUESTED

~~XXXXX~~ Draft reply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

~~XXXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: President Ford

From: Senator Bob Packwood

Date: February 5, 1975

Subject: Recommendations from the Oregon Cattlemen

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross*  
Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

NEROSS/ee



(White House Suspense Copy)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

February 24, 1975

Honorable Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Domestic Council Staff  
The White House

Dear Mr. Ross:

In reply to your request of February 12, we enclose a draft  
reply to a letter dated February 5, 1975 from Senator Bob  
Packwood concerning the proposals made last November by  
representatives of the Oregon cattle industry to boost the  
nation's floundering beef industry.

Sincerely,

CLAYTON YEUTIER  
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure



Draft Reply to February 5 letter from Senator Bob Packwood to the President

Thank you for your letter of February 5 concerning proposals made last November by representatives of the Oregon cattle industry to boost the nation's floundering beef industry.

With regard to meat imports, legislation authorizing quotas was passed by the Congress in 1964 (P.L. 88-482), after several years of declining cattle prices and rising imports. This law applies to imports of fresh, chilled and frozen beef, veal, mutton and goat meat, but the bulk of the meat which is imported subject to this law is frozen boneless beef for further processing. The law permits imports of these meats to increase in proportion to increases in U.S. production, computed from 1959-1963 base period. Imports of other meats, such as pork, processed meat products, and lamb are not subject to quotas.

All imported meat is subject to the same rigid requirements for sanitation and wholesomeness as meat produced in the United States. USDA veterinarians monitor the meat inspection system and processing plants of foreign supplying countries, and imported meat is inspected again when it reaches the United States. Imports of fresh meat are not permitted from countries where communicable animal diseases, which are not present in the United States, are endemic. For example, imports of uncooked beef from Argentina are not permitted, because of the presence of foot and mouth disease in Argentina.

For 1975, the level of permitted imports as computed by the formula specified in the Law is 1,074.3 million pounds, product weight. However, the Law also provides for a 10 percent overage, so that the actual point at which the President may take action to limit imports is 1,181.7 million pounds. If imports are estimated to exceed this "trigger" point, the President must invoke quotas, but he may not reduce the level of imports permitted to less than 1,074.3 million pounds. Imports of meats subject to the Law declined sharply last year from 1,356 million pounds in 1973 to 1,079 million pounds. In 1974, imports were below the "trigger" point for imposition of quotas.

Rather than invoke quotas in 1975, the President has decided to try to negotiate voluntary agreements with supplying countries to limit imports to about 1,150 million pounds. The difference between this quantity and the quota level of 1,074.3 million pounds amounts to about one-half pound, carcass weight basis, per person in the United States compared with a total expected consumption rate of 230 pounds for all meats in 1975, and is expected to have a negligible impact on livestock and meat prices.

The advantage of voluntary agreements compared with quotas is that this approach is expected to make it easier for the United States to negotiate



reductions in barriers to overseas sales of U.S. farm products. Many of these barriers, such as the bans imposed on imports of beef by Japan and the countries of the European Community, directly affect the U.S. livestock industry.

It is difficult to over-estimate the importance of moving toward freer trade in agricultural products. The production capacity of U.S. agriculture far exceeds requirements for U.S. consumption. To keep this production plant fully employed, we must export. In 1974, we exported about \$22 billion of farm products and imported \$10 billion. This favorable balance of trade in agriculture helped to offset the costs of imported petroleum and many other essential non-food items. In 1974, the United States imported some \$25 billion worth of energy products. Additionally, it should be noted that over \$1.6 billion of our agricultural exports were livestock products, including about 10 percent of our production of variety meats, and 40 to 50 percent of our production of tallow and hides.

The Department of Agriculture's school lunch purchase program for 1974-75 is now complete. The program was accelerated beginning last spring, to help the beef industry. Purchases during this fiscal year have been timed to give the maximum assistance to the industry. Including 45 million pounds purchased last spring, a total of 179 million pounds of ground beef have been purchased for the 1974-75 school year. In addition 28 million pounds of canned beef, 25 million pounds of frankfurters and 8 million pounds of canned pork have been purchased during the current fiscal year.. Purchases of meat for use in school lunch program during 1973-74 school year included 45.5 million pounds of ground beef, 19.6 million pounds of frankfurters, 32.6 million pounds of canned luncheon meats and 7.3 million pounds of canned pork.

All federally funded purchases of beef for school lunch and troop mess within the United States are exclusively domestic beef. Past experience indicates that it is impractical to limit off-shore purchases to domestic sources. However, due to improvements in processing, packaging and competitive prices the Military is purchasing larger quantities of beef from domestic sources.

The Department of Agriculture has received nearly 5,000 comments from the public concerning the proposed revisions in the beef grading system. These comments are being reviewed and hopefully a decision will be made in the near future. The proposed revisions would reduce the marbling requirement for younger slaughter cattle in the top grades. This would result in slightly leaner beef with less excess fat; and less grain would be required to produce cattle that would qualify for the top grades.

Your comments, suggestions and interest are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



March 1, 1975

Dear Senator:

This is in further response to your letter of February 5 concerning proposals made last November by representatives of the Oregon cattle industry to boost the nation's floundering beef industry.

With regard to meat imports, legislation authorizing quotas was passed by the Congress in 1964 (P.L. 88-482), after several years of declining cattle prices and rising imports. This law applies to imports of fresh, chilled and frozen beef, veal, mutton and goat meat, but the bulk of the meat which is imported subject to this law is frozen boneless beef for further processing. The law permits imports of these meats to increase in proportion to increases in U.S. production, computed from 1959-1963 base period. Imports of other meats, such as pork, processed meat products, and lamb are not subject to quotas.

All imported meat is subject to the same rigid requirements for sanitation and wholesomeness as meat produced in the United States. USDA veterinarians monitor the meat inspection system and processing plants of foreign supplying countries, and imported meat is inspected again when it reaches the United States. Imports of fresh meat are not permitted from countries where communicable animal diseases, which are not present in the United States, are endemic. For example, imports of uncooked beef from Argentina are not permitted, because of the presence of foot and mouth disease in Argentina.

For 1975, the level of permitted imports as computed by the formula specified in the Law is 1,074.3 million pounds, product weight. However, the Law also provides for a 10 percent overage, so that the actual point at which the President may take action to limit imports is 1,181.7 million pounds. If imports are estimated to exceed this "trigger" point, the President must invoke quotas, but he may not reduce the level of imports permitted to less than 1,074.3 million pounds. Imports of meats subject to





the Law declined sharply last year from 1,356 million pounds in 1973 to 1,079 million pounds. In 1974, imports were below the "trigger" point for imposition of quotas.

Rather than invoke quotas in 1975, the President has decided to try to negotiate voluntary agreements with supplying countries to limit imports to about 1,150 million pounds. The difference between this quantity and the quota level of 1,074.3 million pounds amounts to about one-half pound, carcass weight basis, per person in the United States compared with a total expected consumption rate of 230 pounds for all meats in 1975, and is expected to have a negligible impact on livestock and meat prices.

The advantage of voluntary agreements compared with quotas is that this approach is expected to make it easier for the United States to negotiate reductions in barriers to overseas sales of U.S. farm products. Many of these barriers, such as the bans imposed on imports of beef by Japan and the countries of the European Community, directly affect the U.S. livestock industry.

It is difficult to over-estimate the importance of moving toward freer trade in agricultural products. The production capacity of U.S. agriculture far exceeds requirements for U.S. consumption. To keep this production plant fully employed, we must export. In 1974, we exported about \$22 billion of farm products and imported \$10 billion. This favorable balance of trade in agriculture helped to offset the costs of imported petroleum and many other essential non-food items. In 1974, the United States imported some \$25 billion worth of energy products. Additionally, it should be noted that over \$1.6 billion of our agricultural exports were livestock products, including about 10 percent of our production of variety meats, and 40 to 50 percent of our production of tallow and hides.

The Department of Agriculture's school lunch purchase program for 1974-75 is now complete. The program was accelerated beginning last spring, to help the beef industry. Purchases during this fiscal year have been timed to give the maximum assistance to the industry. Including 45 million pounds purchased last spring, a total of 179 million pounds of ground beef have been purchased for the 1974-75 school year. In addition 28 million pounds of



canned beef, 25 million pounds of frankfurters and 8 million pounds of canned pork have been purchased during the current fiscal year. Purchases of meat for use in school lunch program during 1973-74 school year included 45.5 million pounds of ground beef, 19.6 million pounds of frankfurters, 32.6 million pounds of canned luncheon meats and 7.3 million pounds of canned pork.

All federally funded purchases of beef for school lunch and troop mess within the United States are exclusively domestic beef. Past experience indicates that it is impractical to limit off-shore purchases to domestic sources. However, due to improvements in processing, packaging and competitive prices the Military is purchasing larger quantities of beef from domestic sources.

The Department of Agriculture has received nearly 5,000 comments from the public concerning the proposed revisions in the beef grading system. These comments are being reviewed and hopefully a decision will be made in the near future. The proposed revisions would reduce the marbling requirement for younger slaughter cattle in the top grades. This would result in slightly leaner beef with less excess fat; and less grain would be required to produce cattle that would qualify for the top grades.

Your comments, suggestions and interest are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

William T. Kendall  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President

The Honorable Bob Packwood  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

bcc to Norm Ross - FYI

WTK:AGRIC:EF:rg



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: Records - Secretary  
Room 125-W  
Dept. of Agriculture

Date: Feb. 12, 1975

Father  
did the  
draft  
3/10

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☐ Draft reply for:  
☐ President's signature.  
☐ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☐ Direct reply.  
☐ Furnish information copy.
- ☒ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- ☒ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
to Norm Ross
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

☒ Letter: ☐ Telegram: Other:

To: The President

From: R. Brinkley Smithers - Christopher D. Smithers Foundation, Inc., NY

Date: January 23, 1975

Subject: has ideas about saving on fuel, food and fertilizer

R/p 456-6654

By direction of the President:

Norman E. Ross, Jr.,

Assistant Director, Domestic Council



(White House Suspense Copy)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

March 7, 1975

Mr. R. Brinkley Smithers  
The Christopher D. Smithers  
Foundation, Inc.  
41 East 57th Street  
New York, New York 10022

Dear Mr. Smithers:

President Ford has asked us to thank you for your comments on the problems of fuel, food, and fertilizer in the United States. Your suggestions have been forwarded to the appropriate research groups for consideration in the development of projects.

You might be interested in some background material on the questions that you raised.

As you know, alcohol can be mixed with gasoline and used to power engines. The problem is not technical, but one of economics. Therefore, alcohol will not be used as a substitute for gasoline until the price relationship for the two products indicates that alcohol is competitive. Currently the State of Maine is investigating the technical and economic problems of manufacturing alcohol from trees destroyed by insects. This alcohol would then be blended with gasoline. The State of Nebraska has an ongoing "gasohol" program whereby alcohol produced from grain is blended with gasoline at about a 10 percent mixture. Many State-operated vehicles are powered by the "gasohol" mixture.

Industrial alcohol, spirits, and beer production consume 1.7 percent of the total food and feed grains produced in the United States. About half of this is industrial alcohol.

In 1974, 962,000 acres of tobacco were grown. This acreage accounted for 0.3 percent of 329 million acres of crops harvested.



Mr. R. Brinkley Smithers

2

The technology exists for converting garbage and urban rubbish to clean-burning hydrocarbon fuels. As with alcohol it is a matter of economics. The costs for gathering the wastes and converting them to fuels are too great for such fuels to be competitive with current fuel sources. Economic and technological aspects of waste disposal and conversion to fuels are being studied in research pilot plants.

We appreciate your suggestions and your interest in the problems of fuel, food, and fertilizer.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Long  
Assistant Secretary for Conservation,  
Research and Education

cc: Mr. Ross





# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Records - Secretary  
Room 125-W  
Dept. of Agriculture

Date: Feb. 12, 1975  
Control No. 83778

02-  
Referred to WERS  
Date: (2) ARS

### ACTION REQUESTED

Date: FEB 19 1975  
B

- ☐ Draft reply for:  
☐ President's signature.  
☐ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☐ Direct reply.  
☐ Furnish information copy.
- ☒ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- ☒ Furnish copy of reply, if any, to Norm Ross
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

☒ Letter: ☐ Telegram: Other:

To: The President

From: R. Brinkley Smithers - Christopher D. Smithers Foundation, Inc., ~~NEW~~ NY

Date: January 23, 1975

Subject: has ideas about saving on fuel, food and fertilizer

R/p 456-6654

By direction of the President: *Norman E. Ross*  
Norman E. Ross, Jr.,  
Assistant Director, Domestic Council



(Copy to remain with correspondence)

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

Completed  
sent to C.F.  
3-25

To: Secretary's Records

Date: February 12, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ~~xxxx~~ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
~~xxxxxxxx~~ Undersigned's signature.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For your information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

FOUR PIECES OF CORRESPONDENCE

Description:

~~xxxxxx~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: Other:

To: President Ford

From: J. Keith McReynolds, Harold B. Steele, U. E. Rogers Del Venadoranch, Frank

Date: January 8, 1975, February 7, 1975, January 7, 1974, Jan. 30 "Demp" Allen

Subject: All concerned with the problems facing farmers.

By direction of the President:

Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council



NEROSS/ee

(White House Suspense Copy)

# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary's Records**

Date: **February 12, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

~~XXXX~~ Draft reply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

~~XXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **President Ford**

From: **Peter H. Schuck**

Date: **February 6, 1975**

Subject: **Increases in meat prices.**

By direction of the President:

*Handwritten: 100-1111-1111*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Domestic Council**

**NEROSS/ee**

**(White House Suspense Copy)**



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

Completed  
Set to  
Central File  
3-25

To: Secretary's Records

Date: February 12, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ~~XXXX~~ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
~~XXXXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

~~XXXXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: President Ford  
From: Rolland Main - President of the Illinois Corn Growers Association  
Date: February 6, 1975  
Subject: Imposition of farm export controls and monitoring of overseas sales by the United States Department of Agriculture.

By direction of the President:

Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

NEROSS/ee

(White House Suspense Copy)

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

completed  
Sent to Critical  
FJA 3-25

To: Secretary's Records

Date: February 12, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

~~XXXXX~~ Draft reply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

~~XXXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: President Ford

From: William Kuhfuss

Date: February 3, 1975

Subject: Exports of grain - no embargoes

By direction of the President:

Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

NEROSS/ee



(White House Suspense Copy)



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: ~~Memorandum~~ Secretary - Records  
Room 125-W  
Department of Agriculture

Date: Feb. 12, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

\_\_\_\_ Letter: ☒ Telegram: Other:

To: President Ford

From: John W. Curry, President, Nat'l. Corn Growers Assn.

Date: 1-28-75

Subject: Requesting that export monitoring system be ended

Ross  
pt-456-6554

avil 3-25

By direction of the President:  
Norm Ross, Assistant Director  
Domestic Council



(White House Suspense Copy)

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

*Not  
answered  
7/24/75*

To: Secretary Records  
Room 125 - W  
Department of Agriculture

Date: ~~March~~ Feb. 12, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☐ Draft reply for:  
☐ President's signature.  
☐ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☐ Direct reply.  
☐ Furnish information copy.
- ~~XXX~~ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

☐ Letter: ~~XX~~ ☐ Telegram: Other:

To: The President

From: William E. Towell, Exe. Vice President, The American Forestry

Date: 12/6 /74

Subject: Disturbed over President's Message to ~~omit~~ withhold \$4.9 million for cooperative fire control & \$10 million for reforestation and timber stand improvement.

By direction of the President:

R/pt 456-6554

Norman E. Ross, Jr., Domestic Council



(White House Suspense Copy)

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

3-15 +  
comp dated

REFERRAL

To: Secretary's Records  
Department of Agriculture

Date: February 20, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

XXXXXX Draft reply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.

XXXXXXXXX Undersigned's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

XXXXXX Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: President Ford  
From: Billy B. Burke, Chairman of the Committee on Finance  
Date: January 24, 1975  
Subject: Beef Cattle Industry.

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

NWROSS/ee



(White House Suspense Copy)

Suggested response to Billie B. Burke

We share your concern about losses to cattlemen, widened farm-retail marketing spreads, and uncertainties in the price outlook for coming months. You may be interested in the additional discussion of factors in the outlook in the enclosed copy of the recent Livestock and Meat Situation.

Also, the Department of Agriculture recently released a special study of factors and developments in red meat marketing spreads; a copy is enclosed for your information.

The Department of Agriculture has taken several positive steps to help; has increased its beef purchases for the School Lunch Program, has encouraged the Department of Defense to increase its beef purchases for military feeding and commissaries, and is continuously reviewing factors in the meat import situation. Secretary Butz called on processors and retailers to reduce their margins, to promote beef more vigorously, and to bring retail prices more closely in line with livestock prices. A new law provides additional financing for livestock producers. Possible expanded exports of U.S. beef are also being explored.

Enclosures



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

Completed  
Set to  
Catal File  
3-25

*See - Record*  
To: Mr. Bill Lyons  
Room 6N16  
Department of the Interior

Date: Feb. 25, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: President Ford

From: Kenneth A. Senn, Attorney-at-Law

Date: Feb. 13, 1975

Subject: Ski rates, Aspen, Colorado

By direction of the President:

R/p 456-6554

Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director, Domestic Council

(White House Suspense Copy)





# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary - Records  
Room 125-W/  
Department of Agriculture

Date: Feb. 28, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.
- \_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- \_\_\_\_ Direct reply.
- \_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.
- \_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- \_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- \_\_\_\_ For your information.
- \_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

**PLEASE NOTE:** A ltr. fr Kenneth A. Senn, Attorney at Law also wrote the President about the same as Richard Owen - that letter is being forwarded to your office from Interior - (2-28-75)

### Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **The President**

From: **Richard W. Owen, Attorney at Law, Dallas, Texas 75201**

Date: **Feb. 24, 1975**

Subject: **Concerns Aspen Skiing fees in Federally Forest lands**

By direction of the President:

*7*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Domestic Council**

R/p 456-6554

(White House Suspense Copy)



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary's Records**  
**Department of Agriculture**

Date: **February 25, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

~~XXXXX~~ Draft reply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.

~~XXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

~~XXXXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **President Ford**

From: **F. R. Barnett, President of Barnett Feed Yards, Inc.**

Date: **February 7, 1975**

Subject: **Asking for a \$500,000.00 regarding the growing of alfalfa**

By direction of the President:

**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Domestic Council**

NEROSS/ee

*and 4-9*

(White House Suspense Copy)



Subject: Suggested reply to letter of February 7, 1975, from  
Mr. V. R. Barnett, President, Barnett Feed Yards, Inc.,  
Hagerman, New Mexico.

Mr. V. R. Barnett, President  
Barnett Feed Yards, Inc.  
Post Office Box 384  
Hagerman, New Mexico 88232

Dear Mr. Barnett:

Thank you for your recent letter regarding the need for financial assistance with your feed yard and dehydrator business.

I have asked the Farmers Home Administration State Director for New Mexico, Mr. Carroll D. Hunton, whose address is Federal Building, Room 3414, 517 Gold Avenue, Southwest, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87101, telephone 505-766-2462, to have a member of his staff to contact you to see if there is any manner in which the FmHA may be of assistance. I assure you that if it is possible within his regulations, he shall be glad to help.

Sincerely,



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

Answered  
April 10

To: Secretary - Records  
Room 125-W  
Department of Agriculture

Date: Feb. 25, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ~~XXXX~~ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
~~XX~~ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

~~XXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: President Ford

From: John M. Robbins, President TB and RD Assn., Kingston, N. Y.

Date: Feb. 11, 1975

Subject: Asking the President to impound funds to be used to pay tobacco price subsidies

R/p 456-6554

and 4-10

By direction of the President:

Norman E. Ross, Jr., Assistant Director  
Domestic Council



(White House Suspense Copy)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

April 3, 1975

Mr. Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

Dear Mr. Ross:

Enclosed is a draft reply to Mr. John A. Robbins of  
Kingston, New York regarding tobacco price subsidies  
and suggested impoundment of funds appropriated for  
that purpose.

Sincerely,

CLAYTON YEUTTER  
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure





Draft reply to Mr. John M. Robbins, President, Catskill Region TB and RD Association

This replies to your letter of February 11 to the President concerning tobacco price subsidies and suggesting impoundment of funds appropriated for that purpose.

Under the Agricultural Act of 1949, the Secretary of Agriculture is obligated to make price support available for tobacco. Under the price support program, loans are required to be made on tobacco which producers are unable to sell for prices equal to or more than the levels of support.

While under our system, farmers are generally free to grow those crops which they believe will bring the best returns from the marketplace, their freedom to grow tobacco is restricted and their selection of the crops to be grown on most of the cropland of their farms must be other than tobacco.

Your suggestion pertaining to rescission of budget authority relating to the loan program for tobacco is appreciated and will be considered.



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary - Records  
Room 125-W  
Department of Agriculture

Date: Feb. 25, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **President Ford**

From: **Richard A. Shaw, Aptos, Calif.**

Date: **Feb. 11**

Subject: **Problems being encountered to construct a modern frozen food processing plant in Watsonville, Calif.  
Wants our help.**

R/p 456-6554

*Ans'd 4-10*

By direction of the President:

**Norm Ross, Assistant Director  
Domestic Council**



(White House Suspense Copy)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

MAR 19 1975

Honorable Norman Ross  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council  
The White House  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ross:

We are enclosing a proposed draft of a letter to Mr. Richard A. Shaw, Richard A. Shaw, Inc., Frozen Foods, Aptos, California, in answer to his letter on problems being encountered to construct a modern frozen food processing plant in Watsonville, California.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM ERWIN  
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure



Subject: Suggested reply to letter of February 11, 1975, from  
Mr. Richard A. Shaw, Richard A. Shaw, Inc., Frozen Foods,  
Aptos, California.

Mr. Richard A. Shaw  
Richard A. Shaw, Inc.  
Frozen Foods  
521 Baltusrol Drive  
Aptos, California 93003

Dear Mr. Shaw:

This is in reply to your letter dated February 11, 1975, concerning problems you are encountering in obtaining a \$7 million loan to construct a modern frozen food processing plant in Watsonville, California.

We regret that you are unable to negotiate a loan with a private lender to whom the Farmers Home Administration would guarantee 90 percent of any loss. When the FmHA authorized the FmHA State Director for California, Mr. Douglas W. Young, 459 Cleveland Street, Woodland, California 95693, telephone 916-666-2630, to approve this loan guarantee, it was understood that the lender with whom you were negotiating was willing to make the loan. However, it was learned that the lender has encountered difficulty in finding a secondary market for this loan and, therefore, preferred not to provide the loan requested. FmHA is aware under present rules and regulations that FmHA paper is difficult to sell in the secondary market and it is in the process of revising the agency's regulations which it feels will help to alleviate these difficulties and make secondary marketing of such loan paper more attractive for the lenders.

In view of these circumstances, and of the extensive efforts and expenditures that you have already invested in this venture, and to allow you to be ready for the next packing season, FmHA has authorized State Director Young to approve an insured loan to enable you to obtain the needed funds with which to develop the planned frozen food processing plant. You should contact Mr. Young for further loan processing actions.



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary - Records  
Room 125-W  
Department of Agriculture

Date: Feb. 25, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.
- ☒ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For your information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

These g telegrams were "lost" in the mail system - Respond direct, if appropriate, with a cc to Norm Ross

### Description:

\_\_\_\_\_ Letter: 2 Telegram: Other:

To: President Ford

From: Wm. Towell, American Forestry Assn and Daniel Pool, Wildlife Mgmt Institute

Date: Dec. 6, 1974

Subject: Objecting to the proposed grazing fees

By direction of the President:

R/p 456-6554

Norm Ross, Jr. Assistant Director  
Domestic Council



(White House Suspense Copy)





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

March 7, 1975

Mr. William E. Towell  
The American Forestry Association  
1319 18th Street, N. W.  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Mr. Towell:

President Ford has requested that we respond to your telegram of December 26, 1974, regarding public land grazing fees. Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding. Your telegram was misplaced.

As you probably now know, the proposal for revising the procedure for making annual adjustments in fair market value has been rejected. The grazing fee system, initiated in 1969, remains unchanged. The 1975 grazing fees are held at the same level as they were in 1974. This decision reflects the difficult economic conditions facing the livestock industry. The basic policy on grazing fees is not changed by the moratorium on scheduled increases for 1975. The policy of increasing fees to full fair market value by 1980 remains unchanged.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Long  
Assistant Secretary for Conservation,  
Research and Education

✓ cc: Norm Ross, Jr. Assistant Director  
Domestic Council  
The White House Office





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

March 7, 1975

Mr. Daniel A. Poole  
President, Wildlife Management Institute  
Wire Building  
Washington, D. C. 20005

Dear Mr. Poole:

President Ford has requested that we respond to your telegram of December 6, 1974, regarding public land grazing fees. Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding. Your telegram was misplaced.

As you probably now know, the proposal for revising the procedure for making annual adjustments in fair market value has been rejected. The grazing fee system, initiated in 1969, remains unchanged. The 1975 grazing fees are held at the same level as they were in 1974. This decision reflects the difficult economic conditions facing the livestock industry. The basic policy on grazing fees is not changed by the moratorium on scheduled increases for 1975. The policy of increasing fees to full fair market value by 1980 remains unchanged.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Long  
Assistant Secretary for Conservation,  
Research and Education

cc: ✓ Norm Ross, Jr. Assistant Director  
Domestic Council  
The White House Office



## REFERRAL

To: Secretary - Records  
Room 125-W  
Department of Agriculture

Date: Feb. 25, 1975

Control No. 85734

### ACTION REQUESTED

Referred to: FS (2)

Date: FEB 28 1975  
B

#### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

- ☐ Draft reply for:
  - ☐ President's signature.
  - ☐ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☐ Direct reply.
- ☐ Furnish information copy.
- ☒ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- ☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

#### REMARKS:

These telegrams were "lost" in the mail system - Respond direct, if if appropriate, with a cc to Norm Ross

#### Description:

Letter: 2 Telegram: Other:

To: President Ford

From: Wm. Towell, American Forestry Assn and Daniel Pool, Wildlife Mgmt Institute

Date: Dec. 6, 1974

Subject: Objecting to the proposed grazing fees

By direction of the President:

*Norm Ross*  
Norm Ross, Jr. Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

R/p 456-6554

(Copy to remain with correspondence)



The White House  
Washington

12/26/74

OT WHA016(1444)(2-025080E340)PM 12/06/74 1444

ICS IPMMTZZ CSP

2024675810 TDMT WASHINGTON DC 76 12-06 0244P EST

PMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

SECRETARIES MORTON AND BUTZ HAVE PROPOSED A NEW GRAZING FEE  
FORMULA BASED UPON THE PRICE OF BEEF AND FEED. WE URGE YOU  
TO REJECT THIS PROPOSAL AND RETAIN THE CURRENT FORMULA FOR INCREASING  
GRAZING FEES ON THE PUBLIC LANDS TO THEIR FAIR MARKET VALUE.

THOSE WHO USE PUBLIC RESOURCES FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES SHOULD  
PAY FULL VALUE FOR BENEFITS RECEIVED. THE PROPOSED NEW FORMULA  
WOULD UNDO THE GAINS WHICH HAVE BEEN MADE UNDER A FAIR AND EQUITABLE  
SYSTEM.

WILLIAM E TOWELL THE AMERICAN FORESTRY ASSOCIATION 1319 18th St NW

NNNN

tel. 467-5810



100: IPMMY22: C6P

2023471774 MGM TDMT WASHINGTON DC 108 12-06 0424P EST  
ZIP

\*\*\*\*\*

THIS MAILGRAM WAS TRANSMITTED ELECTRONICALLY BY WESTERN UNION TO A POST OFFICE NEAR YOU FOR DELIVERY

NR  
PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD  
WHITEHOUSE  
WASHINGTON DC 20515

SECRETARIES BUTZ AND MORTON HAVE DECIDED NOT TO RETAIN THE CURRENT  
PUBLIC LANDS GRAZING FEE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM. THEY WOULD ADOPT A  
PROPOSAL OFFERED BY THE AMERICAN NATIONAL CATTLEMANS ASSOCIATION.  
THE ANCA SCHEME WOULD SHORT CHANGE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IT WOULD  
PROMOTE CONTINUED OVER GRAZING AND RANGE DETERIORATION IT WOULD  
DISCRIMINATE AGAINST OTHER CATTLEMEN WHO, BECAUSE THEY MUST USE  
PRIVATE FORAGE DO NOT RECEIVE A FEDERAL SUBSIDY THE BUTZ-MORTON  
PROPOSAL DEFIES THE SETTLEMENT REACHED VIA FEDERAL PUBLIC HEARINGS  
IN 1969, AND IT WOULD UPSET CRITERIA FOR FEE COLLECTIONS SET FORTH  
IN LAW AND EXECUTIVE POLICY. THE PUBLIC INTEREST REQUIRES THAT  
THE CURRENT FEE SYSTEM BE MAINTAINED

DANIEL A. POOLE PRESIDENT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT INSTITUTE - wire B/dg.

16431 EST

Di 7-1774

MGMWSHT H88





# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary - Records  
Room 125-W  
Department of Agriculture

Date: Feb. 26, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.
- \_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- \_\_\_\_ Direct reply.
- \_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.
- \_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- \_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- \_\_\_\_ For your information.
- \_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

Please prepare a draft response within THREE days since this is going to a Governor (of New Hampshire). Please call if not able to do so -- 456-6554

### Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: The President

From: Governor Meldrim Thomson

Date: Feb. 18, 1975

Subject: Asks that applying for food stamps become less complicated and time-consuming. Would appreciate making the Secretary of Agr. aware of this through White House

By direction of the President:

Norm Ross, Assistant Director

R/p

*expected sometime replied  
March 17*

*and 3-20*

(White House Suspense Copy)



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

never  
answered  
7/2/75

To: Secretary's Records  
Department of Agriculture

Date: February 26, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

~~XXXXX~~ Draft reply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to  
reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other  
appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered,  
please telephone the undersigned immediately,  
Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when  
draft reply, memorandum, or comment is re-  
quested.

REMARKS:

Description:

~~XXXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: President Ford

From: John Sullivan

Date: February 21, 1975

Subject: He wants a new Secretary of Agriculture

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross*  
Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council



NEROSS/ee

(White House Suspense Copy)

WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

Secretary's Records  
Department of Agriculture

Date: February 26, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

~~XXXX~~ Draft reply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

~~XXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **President Ford**

From: **Richard W. Blake - Ex. Vice President National Sugarbeet Growers Federation**

Date: **February 11, 1975**

Subject: **Resolutions passed by the Natl. Sugarbeet Growers Federation.**

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Domestic Council**

*Amid*  
*4-30*  
**NEROSS/ee**



(White House Suspense Copy)

DRAFT REPLY TO MR. RICHARD W. BLAKE, EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT  
OF SUGARBEET GROWERS FEDERATION, WASHINGTON, D.C.

President Ford has asked us to reply to your recent letter regarding resolutions adopted by the National Sugarbeet Growers Federation. We appreciate your support for the Administration's program to increase the production of foodstuffs.

We too are concerned about making sure that farmers have an adequate supply of fuel, fertilizer, chemicals, and all the other inputs that are essential in today's high technology agriculture. At the same time, we are not at all enthused about allocation programs. In our free enterprise economy, we believe that one should use governmental allocations only as a last resort. It is much better to permit market forces to alleviate shortages and respond to surpluses, as the case may be.

Fortunately, in this case it looks as if the market is doing a good job of stimulating the production of agricultural inputs. A great deal of additional fertilizer capacity is coming into existence throughout the world. More fertilizer will be available for U.S. farmers this year than was available a year ago--though perhaps not quite as much as farmers would like to have. Prices should be relatively stable in 1975, and significantly lower in 1976.

Despite the energy crisis, fuels and chemicals should be in adequate supply. All in all, it looks as if the market will supply the materials that farmers need for all out production in 1975.



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary's Records**  
**Department of Agriculture**

Date: **February 27, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ~~XXXX~~ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
~~XXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For your information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

~~XXXXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **President Ford**  
From: **Fred Fisher, President of the Red River County Concerted Services in Training and Education Committee**  
Date: **No date - resolution Feb. 5, 1975**  
Subject: **Resolution of the Red River County Training and Education Committee**

*Ans'd 3-12*

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Domestic Council**

NEROSS/ee

(White House Suspense Copy)





# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary's Records**  
**Department of Agriculture**

Date: **February 27, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

~~XXXXX~~ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
~~XXXXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to  
reply.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other  
appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered,  
please telephone the undersigned immediately,  
Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when  
draft reply, memorandum, or comment is re-  
quested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

~~XXXXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **President Ford**  
From: **August Burgi**  
Date: **February 13, 1975**  
Subject: **Concerned about subsidized cheese imports.**

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Domestic Council**

*Quid 3-19*

**NEROSS/ee**



(White House Suspense Copy)

Draft Reply to February 13 Letter of August Burgi to the President

Mr. August Burgi  
Manager  
Wisconsin Swiss & Limburger  
Cheese Producers Association  
Monroe, Wisconsin 53566

President Ford appreciates your thoughtful letter of February 13 regarding cheese imports and the so-called "cheese war." No doubt you are referring to the resumption of cheese export subsidies by the European Economic Community. We understand your concern.

As you probably know, the Treasury Department has already issued a preliminary notice of countervailing duty determination in accordance with Section 303 of the Tariff Act of 1930, as recently amended by the Trade Act of 1974. As indicated by the relative brevity of the period for public comment on the notice, the Treasury intends to move promptly to reach its final decision.

The President stands by his pledge, announced last October 31, that no action will be taken to change the present system of dairy import quotas without a thorough investigation and full opportunity for dairy producers to be heard.



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary's Records**  
**Department of Agriculture**

Date: **February 27, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

~~XXXXX~~ Draft reply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

~~XXXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **President Ford**

From: **Don Walters**

Date: **February 21, 1975**

Subject: **Countervailing duties**

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Domestic Council**

**NEROSS/ee**

*Used 3-27-75*

(White House Suspense Copy)



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary - Records  
Room 125 - W  
Department of Agriculture

Date: Feb. 28, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
    \_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
    ☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

~~For~~ The President

From: Henry J. Vande Voorde, Southwest Forest Industries, Cortez, Colo.

Date: Feb. 19, 1975

Subject: Concerned about the forest harvest - asking for our assistance.

R/pt

456-6554

By direction of the President:

Norm Ross, Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

encl - 3 - Q7-75



(White House Suspense Copy)

# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary - Records  
Room 125-W  
Department of Agriculture

Date: Feb. 28, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

Please note: Mr. Steele wrote the President Feb. 7, which has been forwarded to Agriculture on Feb. 12 for draft response -- perhaps somehow one reply will suffice for Steele.

### Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To President Ford

From Harold B. Steele, President of Ill. Farm Bureau, Bloomington, Ill

Date: Feb. 24, 1975

Subject Grain export monitoring system to end.

By direction of the President:

R/p 456-6554

Norm Ross, Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

STOP 28

*ansd 4-7*



(White House Suspense Copy)



THE WHITE HOUSE

REFERRAL

To: Secretary - Records  
Agriculture Department  
(Room 125-W)

Date: Feb. 28, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
To: The President  
From: ~~Roderick F. Elliott, Hudson, Colo~~ Roderick F. Elliott, Hudson, Colo  
Date: Feb. 18, 1975  
Subject: Relating the concerns, as well as his own, of the American farmer, and the serious trouble they are in -- can we please help them

By direction of the President:

R/p

*Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
Norman E. Ross, Jr.,  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

*Cons'd 4-18*

(White House Suspense Copy)





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

MAR 31 1975

Mr. Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Mr. Ross:

We are enclosing a draft reply of a letter to Mr. Roderick F. Elliott, Box 347, Hudson, Colorado, in answer to his letter of February 18, 1975, concerning his need for financial assistance and his efforts to obtain assistance through Federal agencies.

Sincerely,  
James E. Bostic, Jr.  
Deputy Assistant Secretary

Enclosure



Subject: Suggested reply to letter of February 18, 1975, from  
Mr. Roderick F. Elliott, Box 347, Hudson, Colorado 80642.

Mr. Roderick F. Elliott  
Box 347  
Hudson, Colorado 80642

Dear Mr. Elliott:

This is in reply to your letter of February 18, 1975, concerning your need for financial assistance and your efforts to get help through Federal agencies.

We have asked Department of Agriculture officials to review your situation. They advise that there has been considerable correspondence with members of the Colorado Congressional Delegation concerning the financing of your farming operation through the Farmers Home Administration (FmHA), an Agency of that Department.

The FmHA has fully considered the possibility of financing Karla-Kalanis Farms, Incorporated, of Keenesburg, Colorado. The FmHA is not authorized to make farm loans to a corporation, or to persons involved in the operation of an incorporated farm enterprise, in addition to one financed by the FmHA. Provisions of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act provide that the FmHA can make farm ownership and farm operating loans to individuals conducting not larger than family farm operations. The applicant and his immediate family must provide the management and a major portion of the required labor. We understand that the dairy operation involved exceeds the labor requirement mentioned above and could not qualify for FmHA assistance for this additional reason.

We are very much aware and concerned about the need for additional sources of financial assistance under present economic conditions. The Department of Agriculture currently has under consideration a number of proposals to expand credit programs to farmers and to improve the economic environment for farm operators.



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

Completed

3-19

To: Secretary - Records  
Room 125 - W  
Department of Agriculture

Date: Feb. 28, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

~~XXXXX~~ Draft reply for:

\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
\_\_\_\_\_ ~~XX~~ Undersigned's signature.

\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: The President

From: Clyde R. Payne, Secretary-Treasurer, National Assn. of County, ASCS

Date: Feb. 20, 1975

Jasper, Fl

Subject: Understand that President is planning to initiate action to refund or rebate farmers part of the cost of fuel used to produce food and fiber. Will need additional personnel

By direction of the President:

R/p 456-6554

Norm Ross, Assistant Director  
Domestic Council



(White House Suspense Copy)

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

Answered  
4-11-75

To: Secretary Records  
Department of Agriculture

Date: March 5, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

There have been other communications on this subject forwarded to your office for response.

Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: The President

From: Donald Ostensoe, Oregon Cattlemen's Assn.

Date: March 5, 1975

Subject: Objecting to any more meat imports; - saying that the voluntary meat restraints ARE not working

R/p 456-6554

By direction of the President: *Norman E. Ross*  
Norman E. Ross, Jr., Assistant Director  
Domestic Council



(White House Suspense Copy)



- 447-3337

**THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE**

**REFERRAL**

To: Secretary - Records  
Room 125 - W.  
Dept. of Agriculture

Date: March 5, 1975

**ACTION REQUESTED**

- ☒ Draft reply for:
- ☐ President's signature.
- ☒ Undersigned's signature. *6563*
- W/CC a fast*
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☒ Direct reply.
- ☒ Furnish information copy.  
to Norm Ross, Rm 218, OEOB
- ☐ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- ☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

**NOTE**

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

**REMARKS:**

**Please note our interim reply to the Governors. Suggest response ASAP.**

**Description:**

2 Letter# \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: Other:

To: **The President**

From: **Governors of Wyoming & Colorado**

Date: **Jan 30 and Feb. 24**

Subject: **Reimpose beef import quotas because cattle industry is in a precarious financial plight. Gov. Herschler is also seeking aid of the Administration to have the Attorney General investigate pricing practices of packers & beef wholesalers.**

R/p 456-6554

By direction of the President:

*Norman Ross*  
**Norm Ross, Assistant Director  
Domestic Council**

*Ans'd 4-28- cc sent to central file*



(White House Suspense Copy)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

Ross

Honorable Ed Herschler  
Governor of Wyoming  
State Capitol  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

April 24, 1975

Dear Governor Herschler:

Mr. James H. Falk, Associate Director of the Domestic Council, has forwarded to us your letter of January 30 discussing the economic situation of the cattle industry. We too have been very much concerned with the health of that industry, and are pleased that the situation has improved in recent weeks. Fat cattle numbers are now much below a year ago, and consumer demand has begun to improve. As a consequence, fat cattle prices have strengthened a great deal, and most cattle feeders are now operating in the black. If we have normal weather in 1975 and a good feed grain crop this fall, those feeders should have another good year ahead of them in 1976.

The segment of the cattle industry in the greatest difficulty at the moment, as you well know, is the producer side. With consumer demand having been very low for the past several months due to the recession, and with feed costs still relatively high because of last year's drought, the only adjustment possible for cattle feeders was in the purchase price of animals going into their lots. This put tremendous downward pressure on the cow-calf sector, and led to some of the lowest feeder-cattle prices we have had in a long time. In addition, feeder-cattle numbers have been very high due to the build-up in cow herds over the past several years. Ranchers have found themselves nearing the peak of the cattle cycle at the very time that demand is weaker than it has been for a good many years.

It will take some time for the cattle industry to extricate itself from its present problems. But, fortunately, there are some bright spots in the picture. The improvement in fat cattle prices over the past several weeks has led to a corresponding improvement in feeder prices. Hopefully, consumer demand for beef will improve in the coming months as we pull out of the recession. If so, the demand for feeder cattle should likewise improve, though numbers are much too large for any substantial price increases to take place. The economy should be performing much better in 1976, and will probably have even greater growth in 1977. All of this will help the cattle industry as it goes through its cyclical adjustment in numbers.



Because a number of other countries in the world have closed their markets to beef imports, President Ford announced several months ago that he would not permit the United States to be a dumping ground for excess beef supplies around the world. At that time, the President indicated that, if necessary, he would either apply import quotas or negotiate voluntary restraint agreements in 1975. Several weeks ago, a decision was made to follow the latter route, and voluntary restraint agreements have now been executed with all countries that export beef to the United States. These agreements will keep the volume of beef exported to the United States at a level below the trigger point of the import quota law. This should provide a satisfactory level of protection to U.S. cattle producers while at the same time preserving an appropriate posture for the United States in the forthcoming multilateral trade negotiations.

Margins have widened for beef and a lot of other foods during the past year or two. Whether this is due to anticompetitive practices, or simply to inflationary cost increases in the marketing sector, is the subject of considerable debate everywhere. The question has been brought to the attention of the Justice Department by us, by cattle groups, by consumer advocate groups, and by many others. It is my understanding that both the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission have the matter under active consideration.

Sincerely,

CLAYTON YEUTTER  
Assistant Secretary

cc: Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council  
Room 218 Old Executive Office Building





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

April 24, 1975

Honorable Richard D. Lamm  
Governor of Colorado  
State Capitol  
Denver, Colorado 80203

Dear Governor Lamm:

Mr. Norman Ross, Assistant Director of the Domestic Council, has referred to us your letter of February 24 discussing the economic plight of the U.S. cattle industry. We share your concern, and have taken a number of actions over the last several months to help out as much as we can.

Beef imports are discussed at some length in your letter. You indicate that the United States is the only market open to many nations, particularly the Common Market and Japan. You also indicate that the Australian and New Zealand Governments have already taken protective action to aid their cattlemen. Actually it is the Common Market and Japan which have closed their markets to beef imports, thus making it very difficult for exporting nations like Australia and New Zealand to ship their product anywhere. As a consequence livestock producers in those two countries have been suffering enormous losses. This, of course, has also put additional pressure on the United States. For that reason, we have been in the process of negotiating voluntary restraints with the exporting countries. These restraint agreements have now been concluded, and they will result in beef imports to the United States being below the trigger level mentioned in your letter. This will satisfactorily protect the interests of U.S. cattle producers while at the same time avoid the necessity of having to apply import quotas.

Beef has been a high priority purchase item for us in the 1974-75 School Lunch Program. I am sure that we will continue to provide beef items for lunches in the 1975-76 school year. As to food stamps, the economic benefits thereof are accelerating rapidly. In fact, food stamps and school lunches now constitute about two-thirds of the entire budget of the Department of Agriculture. The food stamp program has a built-in escalator, which provides for adjustments in benefits every 6 months. The next adjustment will take place on July 1, and will provide additional purchasing power for all food stamp recipients nation-wide.



Fortunately, cattle feeders are now beginning to move into a profitable position once again. With fat cattle supplies down and consumer demand improving, fat cattle prices have strengthened significantly in the past few weeks. This has led to some improvement in the feeder cattle market as well, but that market will be under pressure for the next couple of years. We are nearing the peak of the cattle cycle at the same time that the world is experiencing an economic recession. Consequently, our cattlemen, as well as those in Australia, New Zealand, and other major producing countries, will need to do some herd culling. One encouraging note though is the anticipated improvement in demand. As we begin to cope with the recession, here and in other countries, the demand for beef will improve. This should begin to take place later this year, and our own economy should be much improved in 1976 and particularly in 1977. If so, this will do a great deal to help the ranchers of Colorado and the rest of our cattle states.

Sincerely,

CLAYTON YEUTTER

Assistant Secretary

cc: Mr. Norman Ross, Assistant Director  
Domestic Council  
Room 218 Old Executive Office Building





# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary - Records  
Room 125 - W  
Dept. of Agriculture

Date: March 8, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- \_\_\_\_\_ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Undersigned's signature.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☒ Direct reply.  
☒ Furnish information copy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For your information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

1 Letter: 2 Telegram: Other:

To: The President

From: Don Woodward; Herman Schmitz; Ervain Friehe (signers of Mailgram); Carroll

Date: 3/3; 3/4

Wilson; & Tom Ostrander

Subject: Urging Government to do away with all grain export sales monitoring and licensing; allowing operation of a free market.

R/p 3-8-75

By direction of the President:

Norman E. Ross, Jr.

Assistant Director, Domestic Council



(White House Suspense Copy)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

March 24, 1975

Mr. Don Woodward, President  
National Association of  
Wheat Growers  
1030 15th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Mr. Woodward:

Your recent mailgram to President Ford urging removal of export monitoring has been sent to this office for reply.

The President has directed the termination of the voluntary prior approval system on export sales of grain and soybeans and Secretary Butz was pleased to announce its termination in the enclosed press release dated March 6. We think this program has served its purpose of warding off strong pressures for mandatory export controls during a period of tight supplies.

We are taking other positive steps in recognition of the easing supply situation on agricultural commodities:

1. Increasing foreign food assistance expenditures by almost \$600 million which will permit the volume of grain to increase by an additional two million tons over a year ago.
2. Intensifying our market development activities abroad.
3. Making preparations for liberalizing international trade and improved market access for U.S. commodities through multilateral trade negotiations under the Trade Act of 1974.

We believe that farmers can plant their 1975 crops confident of full Administration support for strong and open export markets.

Sincerely,

CLAYTON YEUTTER  
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

Mr. Herman Schmitz, President  
Great Plains Wheat  
1030 15th Street, NW  
Suite 340  
Washington, DC 20005

March 24, 1975

Dear Mr. Schmitz::

Your recent mailgram to President Ford urging removal of export monitoring has been sent to this office for reply.

The President has directed the termination of the voluntary prior approval system on export sales of grain and soybeans and Secretary Butz was pleased to announce its termination in the enclosed press release dated March 6. We think this program has served its purpose of warding off strong pressures for mandatory export controls during a period of tight supplies.

We are taking other positive steps in recognition of the easing supply situation on agricultural commodities:

1. Increasing foreign food assistance expenditures by almost \$600 million which will permit the volume of grain to increase by an additional two million tons over a year ago.
2. Intensifying our market development activities abroad.
3. Making preparations for liberalizing international trade and improved market access for U.S. commodities through multilateral trade negotiations under the Trade Act of 1974.

We believe that farmers can plant their 1975 crops confident of full Administration support for strong and open export markets.

Sincerely,

CLAYTON YEUTTER  
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

Mr. Ervain Friehe, Chairman  
Western Wheat Associates  
1030 15th Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20005

March 24, 1975

Dear Mr. Friehe:

Your recent mailgram to President Ford urging removal of export monitoring has been sent to this office for reply.

The President has directed the termination of the voluntary prior approval system on export sales of grain and soybeans and Secretary Butz was pleased to announce its termination in the enclosed press release dated March 6. We think this program has served its purpose of warding off strong pressures for mandatory export controls during a period of tight supplies.

We are taking other positive steps in recognition of the easing supply situation on agricultural commodities:

1. Increasing foreign food assistance expenditures by almost \$600 million which will permit the volume of grain to increase by an additional two million tons over a year ago.
2. Intensifying our market development activities abroad.
3. Making preparations for liberalizing international trade and improved market access for U.S. commodities through multilateral trade negotiations under the Trade Act of 1974.

We believe that farmers can plant their 1975 crops confident of full Administration support for strong and open export markets.

Sincerely,

CLAYTON YEUTTER  
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

March 24, 1975

Mr. Thomas E. Ostrander, President  
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers  
517 Wiley Building  
Hutchinson, Kansas 67501

Dear Mr. Ostrander:

Your recent mailgram to President Ford urging removal of export monitoring has been sent to this office for reply.

The President has directed the termination of the voluntary prior approval system on export sales of grain and soybeans and Secretary Butz was pleased to announce its termination in the enclosed press release dated March 6. We think this program has served its purpose of warding off strong pressures for mandatory export controls during a period of tight supplies.

We are taking other positive steps in recognition of the easing supply situation on agricultural commodities:

1. Increasing foreign food assistance expenditures by almost \$600 million which will permit the volume of grain to increase by an additional two million tons over a year ago.
2. Intensifying our market development activities abroad.
3. Making preparations for liberalizing international trade and improved market access for U.S. commodities through multilateral trade negotiations under the Trade Act of 1974.

We believe that farmers can plant their 1975 crops confident of full Administration support for strong and open export markets.

Sincerely,

Enclosure







DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

Mr. Carroll G. Wilson, President  
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation  
3110 Wooddale Dr., P.O. Box 3370  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55165

March 24, 1975

Dear Mr. Wilson:

Your recent letter to President Ford urging removal of export monitoring has been sent to this office for reply.

The President has directed the termination of the voluntary prior approval system on export sales of grain and soybeans and Secretary Butz was pleased to announce its termination in the enclosed press release dated March 6. We think this program has served its purpose of warding off strong pressures for mandatory export controls during a period of tight supplies.

We are taking other positive steps in recognition of the easing supply situation on agricultural commodities:

1. Increasing foreign food assistance expenditures by almost \$600 million which will permit the volume of grain to increase by an additional two million tons over a year ago.
2. Intensifying our market development activities abroad.
3. Making preparations for liberalizing international trade and improved market access for U.S. commodities through multilateral trade negotiations under the Trade Act of 1974.

We believe that farmers can plant their 1975 crops confident of full Administration support for strong and open export markets.

Sincerely,

CLAYTON YEUTTER  
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary - Records**  
**Room 125-W**  
**Department of Agriculture**

Date: **March 8, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☐ Draft reply for:  
☐ President's signature.  
☐ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☒ Direct reply.  
☒ Furnish information copy.
- ☐ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- ☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

☒ Letter: ☐ Telegram: ☐ Other:  
To: **The President**  
From: **J. Merrill Anderson, President, Iowa Farm Bur. Federation**  
Date: **Feb. 26, 1975**  
Subject: **End Government monitoring for grain and soybeans exports - allowing operation of a free market or have government develop markets so that farmers can continue producing efficiently**

R/p 456-6554

*ansid 4-7*

By direction of the President:

**Norman E. Ross, Assistant Director**  
**Domestic Council**



(White House Suspense Copy)

# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary Records  
Dept. of Agriculture

Date: March 10, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
☐ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
☐ Direct reply.  
☐ Furnish information copy.  
☐ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
☐ For your information.  
☐ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

☒ Letter: ☐ Telegram: ☐ Other:  
To: **The President**

From: **Feb. 27, 1975**

Date: **C. L. Denton, Jr., President, Nat'l. Cotton Council of America; Tennessee**

Subject: **Submitting resolutions re cotton problems**

R/p

assd 3-27

By direction of the President: *Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council



(White House Suspense Copy)

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

Answered  
April 10

To: Secretary Records  
Department of Agriculture

Date: March 10, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: President Ford

From: John J. Fahey

Date: March 6, 1975

Subject: President's message failed to provide funding for the Special Food Services Program for Children--particularly Day Care Centers

R/p 456-6554

ans'd 4-8

By direction of the President: *Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director, Domestic Council



(White House Suspense Copy)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

March 25 1975

Mr. Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council  
The White House  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Norm:

Enclosed is a draft reply in response to the March 6, 1975 letter from Mr. John J. Fahey, Commissioner of the Albany County Department of Social Services. Mr. Fahey wrote concerning the expiration of the Special Food Service Program for Children on June 30, 1975.

The enclosed draft reply addresses the Department's block grant proposal, which we understand is currently being reviewed by the Domestic Council. This proposal, which has not yet been introduced, is experiencing considerable opposition in Congress. In addition, Congress is presently considering several bills which affect the Special Food Service Program for Children.

Sincerely,

RICHARD L. FELTNER  
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure





DRAFT REPLY OF LETTER TO MR. JOHN J. FAHEY

President Ford has asked us to thank you for your recent letter concerning funding for the Special Food Service Program for Children.

As you may know, on February 3, the President released his budget message for fiscal year 1976. The budget request did not contain a provision for the funding of this program inasmuch as the legislation authorizing the program expires June 30, 1975.

The Department does not recommend extension, but rather is proposing new legislation to replace all current Child Nutrition Programs. The proposal would consolidate all Child Nutrition Programs within a block grant to the State agencies. Each State's block grant would be based on that State's proportion of the Nation's children from needy families.

Under the new approach, the States would be responsible for designing a feeding program tailored to provide specifically for the nutritional requirements of needy children in the State, with considerable latitude in exercising that responsibility to adapt programs to local situations. States would develop plans to provide free food to needy children with the most appropriate type of meal, or combination of meals, snacks, and/or milk.

Therefore, under this legislation, States would have the authority to administer those programs which are most beneficial to them and consistent with their priorities.



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

April 10  
answered

To: Secretary - Records  
Room 125-W  
Department of Agriculture

Date: March 10, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Please note previous reply to John Wayne's letter

Description:

1 Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: Norman E. Ross

From: John Wayne

Date: Feb. 25, 1975

Subject: Wants history of frozen items of the school lunch program; who are people sending cattlemen & feeders to the "wall".

By direction of the President:

Norman E. Ross, Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

R/p 456-6554



(White House Suspense Copy)

THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

April 10-75  
answered

To: Secretary Records  
Department of Agriculture

Date: March 10, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ~~xxx~~ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
~~xxx~~ \_\_\_\_\_ Undersigned's signature.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For your information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

1 Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **The President**

From: **William Fishbeck, Chairman, Washtenaw County Soil Con. Dist., Michigan**

Date: **March 4, 1975**

Subject: **k Forwarding a copy of their annual conservation report of 1974**

R/p

ansd 4-10

By direction of the President: *Norman E. Ross*  
**Norman E. Ross, Assistant Director**  
**Domestic Council**



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: Secretary - Records  
Room 125-W  
Department of Agriculture

Date: March 10, 1975

never answered  
7/24/75

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Description:

1 Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: President Ford

From: ~~Director~~ J. C. Rice, President, St. Francis County Farm Bur. , Arkansas

Date: Feb. 5, 1975

Subject: Giving recommendations on farm policys: open export policy; Target prices; Cotton; Soybeans;

R/p 456-6554

By direction of the President: *Norman E. Ross*  
Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director, Domestic Council

(White House Suspense Copy)



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

answered  
4-12-75

To: **Secretary - Records  
Dept. of Agriculture**

Date: **March 11, 1975**

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

**Attached are several telegrams**

Description:

\_\_\_\_ Letter: ☒ Telegram? Other: **and mailgram**  
To: **The President**  
From: **State Senator fr Montana Dist. 29; Duxbury of S.D.; officials fr West Feeders,**  
Date: **March 7 & 9 respectively**  
Subject: **Stop State department's beef import quota**

R/p

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr. Assistant Director  
Domestic Council**



(White House Suspense Copy)



April 10, 1975

Dear Mr. Ostensoe:

Thank you for your recent correspondence concerning meat imports. I wish to assure you that the views of livestock producers and other spokesmen for the industry have and will continue to be considered by this Administration. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Public Law 88-482, enacted in August 1964, provides that if yearly imports of certain meats, primarily frozen beef, are estimated to equal or exceed 110 percent of an adjusted based quantity, quotas are to be imposed on the imports of these meats. The adjusted based quantity for 1975 is 1,074.3 million pounds. The amount of estimated imports which would trigger impositions of quotas in 1975 is 1,181.7 million pounds. Rather than invoke quotas in 1975, the President has decided to try to negotiate voluntary agreements with supplying countries to limit imports.

On March 31, the Secretary of Agriculture estimated 1975 imports of meat subject to Public Law 88-482 at 1,180 million pounds. This second quarterly estimate is 30 million pounds higher than the estimate announced on December 31, 1974, but below the quantity that would trigger imposition of import quotas under the law.

Imports of meat subject to Public Law 884482 have increased in recent months, totaling 233 million pounds for the first 2 months of 1975. This was 32.6 million pounds higher than imports during the same period last year. The March 31 estimate takes into account information



-2-

furnished by the Department of State, which is negotiating voluntary export restraint agreements with supplying countries. These agreements are expected to be completed shortly.

We appreciate your interest in meat import policy.

Sincerely,

Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

Mr. Donald Ostensoe  
Executive Vice-President  
Oregon Cattlemen's Association  
Imperial Hotel  
Portland, Oregon 97205

NEROSS/ee

cc: White House Files

*The letter went to 17 people.*



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: Secretary - Records  
Department of Agriculture

Date: March 11, 1975

Answered  
Sent to  
C.F. 4-29

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☐ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☐ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☐ Direct reply.
- ☐ Furnish information copy.
- ☐ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- ☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

**Pls. prepare draft response and return file to Norm Ross**

Description:

\_\_\_\_ Letter: 10 Telegram: Other:

To: **The President**

From:

Date:

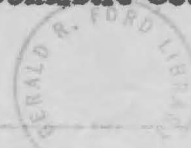
Subject: **Stop increase in meat imports; meat imports detrimental to economy of country; etc.**

R/p 456-6554

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**

**Assistant Director, Domestic Council**



(White House Suspense Copy)

# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary Records  
Dept. of Agriculture

Date: March 13, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

\_\_\_\_\_ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Undersigned's signature.  
  
\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to  
reply.

~~XXXXX~~ Direct reply.

\_\_\_\_\_ ~~XX~~ Furnish information copy.

**Norman Ross, Rm 218, OEOB**

\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other  
appropriate handling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.

\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.

\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered,  
please telephone the undersigned immediately,  
Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when  
draft reply, memorandum, or comment is re-  
quested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **The President**

From: **Lee Mann, Pine Village, Indiana**

Date: **March 5, 1975**

Subject: **Wants Admin. to remove trade restrictions**

By direction of the President:

*Norman Ross*  
**Norm E. Ross, Assistant Director  
Domestic Council**

R/p 456-6554

*cc of final response ltr 3/26  
sent to cabinet file*



(White House Suspense Copy)

# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary Records**  
**Department of Agriculture**

Date: **March 13, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- \_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For your information.
- \_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

\_\_\_\_\_ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: Other: **MAILGRAM**

To: **President Ford**

From: **Clyde Jarvis, Pres., Montana Farmers Union**

Date: **March 12**

Subject: **Stop imports of agricultural products; investigate meat stored & used in school lunch programs that is foreign produced**

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**

**Assistant Director, Domestic Council**

**R/p 456-6554**

*and 428-75*



(White House Suspense Copy)



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

Completed  
sent to C F  
answered  
4-11-75

To: Secretary Records  
Department of the Agriculture

Date: March 14, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

Please note that on March 11 telegrams were referred on same subject

Description:

\_\_\_\_ Letter: 7 Telegram: Other:

To: The President

From:

Date:

Subject: Stop foreign beef importation - this hurts cattlemen. (Re State Dept.'s beef importation of 100 million pounds.)

By direction of the President:

R/p

Norman E. Ross, Jr. Assistant Director  
Domestic Council



(White House Suspense Copy)

2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
1  
2  
3  
4 WHD008 WAA102(1251)(2-020419E070)PD 03/11/75 1251

5 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

6  
7 6052253194 TDBN ABERDEEN SD 147 03-11 1251P EST

8 PMS NORMAN ROSS, ADVISOR TO THE PRESIDENT

9  
10 WHITE HOUSE

11 WASHINGTON DC 20500

12  
13 SOUTH DAKOTA LIVESTOCK FEEDERS, MANY OF WHOM ARE FACING BANKRUPTCY  
14 IN THE NEAR FUTURE BECAUSE OF CURRENT LIVESTOCK PRICES, URGENTLY  
15 PETITION THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES, AND OUR DEPARTMENTS OF  
16 STATE AND AGRICULTURE NOT TO CONSIDER, WORK FOR, OR NEGOTIATE ANY  
17 IMPORTATION OF FOREIGN MEAT INTO OUR COUNTRY  
18  
19

20  
21  
22 SEEMINGLY CREDITABLE RUMORS ALLEGE THAT OUR DEPARTMENT OF STATE IS  
23 DESIROUS OF AND NEGOTIATING FOR IMPORTATION OF A SIZEABLE AMOUNT OF  
24 FOREIGN BEEF FROM CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICAN COUNTRIES. INQUIRIES IN  
25 OUR BEHALF RESULTED IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THIS FACT BY ASSISTANT  
26

The White House  
Washington

DIS MAR 11 PM 2 10



2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

SECRETARY OF STATE JULIUS KATZ

WE RESPECTFULLY PETITION OUR PRESIDENT AND ADMINISTRATORS OF OUR  
STATE AND AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENTS TO COMPLETELY CUT OFF ALL IMPORTS  
OF FOREIGN BEEF AS OF APRIL 1 1975 IN AN EFFORT TO COPE WITH THE  
CRISIS FACING THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY AND, ULTIMATELY THE CONSUMING  
PUBLIC RESPECTFULLY

WALLY THIEL PRESIDENT SOUTH DAKOTA LIVESTOCK FEEDERS ASSN  
ROUTE 4 ABERDEEN SOUTH DAKOTA  
NNNN



2  
3  
4  
5  
6

The White House  
Washington



WHA214(1908)(2-017711E068)PD 03/09/75 1908

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

1975 MAR 9 PM 8 09

6088848229 TDBN EDGERTON WI 49 03-09 0708P EST

PMS PRESIDENT GERALD R FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

WITH MANY AMERICAN FARMERS GOING BROKE WE STRONGLY PROTEST THE 100  
MILLION POUNDS OF BEEF NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION TO BE IMPORTED INTO  
THIS COUNTRY. WE STRONGLY URGE YOU TO DECIDE AGAINST THIS PROPOSAL.

CARL W THOMPSON, CHAIRMAN WISCONSIN SENATE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE,  
DAVID O'MALLEY CHAIRMAN WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE,  
HARLAND E EVERSON WISCONSIN ASSEMBLY AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE

MEMBER

NNNN



FORM 0000 PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, W. B. 3.

00100

2  
3  
4  
5  
6

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

The White House  
Washington

WHA069(1051)(2-009743E067)PD 03/08/75 1035

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

1975 MAR 8 AM 11 53

6058664424 TDBN BISON SD 24 03-08 1035A EST

PMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

FOR THE BENEFIT OF NATION CONSUMER AND RANCHER FARMER I OPPOSE THE  
MEAT IMPORT QUOTAS AND PARTICULARLY THE IMPENDING INCREASE IN IMPORT  
MEAT QUOTAS

RAYMOND MEYER PRESIDENT NATIONAL BEEF IMPROVEMENT FEDERATION  
SORUM SOUTH DAKOTA 57654

NNNN



FORM QDS PRINTED BY THE STANDARD REGISTER COMPANY, U. S. A.



2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

WHA234(2021)(2-019301E068)PD 03/09/75 2021

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

6054242755 POM TDBN HOT SPRINGS SD 9 03-09 0821P EST

PMS PRESIDENT GERALD FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

STRENUOUSLY OBJECT NEW BEEF IMPORT QUOTA. INSULT TO INJURY

W B KLIPPENSTEIN REPUBLICAN COMMITTEEMAN MR-KLIP HEREFORDS

ORAL SOUTH DAKOTA 57766

NNNN

White House  
Washington

1975 MAR 9 PM 9 21



2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25  
26

WHA215(1910)(2-017813E068)PD 03/09/75 1910

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

4069613638 TDBN VICTOR MT 14 03-09 0710P EST

PMS PRESIDENT GERALD R FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC

MONTANA BEEF PRODUCERS ARE LOSING MONEY REFUSE STATE DEPARTMENT  
DEMANDS TO IMPORT ADDITIONAL BEEF

MONTANA STATE GRANGE JACK IMAN

NNNN

133400  
The White House  
Washington

1975 MAR 9 PM 8 00



The White House  
Washington

WHA201(1832)(2-016992E068)PD 03/09/75 1832

ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

1975 MAR 9 PM 8 06

6052445144 TDBN FAITH SD 62 03-09 0632P EST

PMS PRESIDENT GERALD R FORD

WHITE HOUSE DC 20500

WE OF MEAT PROMOTERS WHO WITH THE CFA CO-SPONSORED THE BEEF-IN TO  
WASHINGTON TO PLEAD FOR THE SALVATION OF THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY HAVE  
APPARENTLY FAILED TO GET THROUGH TO YOU. IF MEAT IMPORT QUOTAS ARE  
ALLOWED TO INCREASE THAT WILL MOST CERTAINLY BE THE STRAW THAT BROKE  
THE CAMELS BACK AND MORE DISASTEROUS CONSEQUENCES ARE SURE TO  
FOLLOW.

NATIONAL MEAT PROMOTERS, LESTER BLOMBERG SECY  
FAITH, SD 57626

NNNN



2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
1 WHD027 WAD069(1803)(2-023790E067)PD 03/08/75 1803

2 ICS IPMBNGZ CSP

3 6053745716 TDBN LEMMON SD 33 03-08 0603P EST 1975 MAR 8 PM 7 42

4 PMS PRESIDENT GERALD R FORD, DLR

5 WHITE HOUSE

6 WASHINGTON DC 20500

7 SIR DO NOT SUPPORT THE 100 MILLION POUND FOREIGN BEEF IMPGRT STOP DO  
8 NOT KILL THE LIVESTOCK AND FEEDER GRAINS INDUSTRIES STOP DO NOT KILL  
9 THE COMMUNITIES THEY SUPPORT

10 CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LEMMON SOUTH DAKOTA KATHRYN POTTER EXECUTIVE  
11 SECRETARY

12 NNNN



April 10, 1975

Dear Mr. Ostensoe:

Thank you for your recent correspondence concerning meat imports. I wish to assure you that the views of livestock producers and other spokesmen for the industry have and will continue to be considered by this Administration. We welcome your comments and suggestions.

Public Law 88-482, enacted in August 1964, provides that if yearly imports of certain meats, primarily frozen beef, are estimated to equal or exceed 110 percent of an adjusted based quantity, quotas are to be imposed on the imports of these meats. The adjusted based quantity for 1975 is 1,074.3 million pounds. The amount of estimated imports which would trigger impositions of quotas in 1975 is 1,181.7 million pounds. Rather than invoke quotas in 1975, the President has decided to try to negotiate voluntary agreements with supplying countries to limit imports.

On March 31, the Secretary of Agriculture estimated 1975 imports of meat subject to Public Law 88-482 at 1,180 million pounds. This second quarterly estimate is 30 million pounds higher than the estimate announced on December 31, 1974, but below the quantity that would trigger imposition of import quotas under the law.

Imports of meat subject to Public Law 88-482 have increased in recent months, totaling 233 million pounds for the first 2 months of 1975. This was 32.6 million pounds higher than imports during the same period last year. The March 31 estimate takes into account information



-2-

furnished by the Department of State, which is negotiating voluntary export restraint agreements with supplying countries. These agreements are expected to be completed shortly.

We appreciate your interest in meat import policy.

Sincerely,

Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

Mr. Donald Ostensoe  
Executive Vice-President  
Oregon Cattlemen's Association  
Imperial Hotel  
Portland, Oregon 97205

NEROSS/ee

cc: White House Files





# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary - Records**  
**Room 125-W**  
**Department of Agriculture**

Date: **March 17, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☐ Draft reply for:  
☐ President's signature.  
☐ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☒ Direct reply.
- ☒ Furnish information copy.  
**Norman Ross, The White House**
- ☐ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- ☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

**Please note interim response to State Senator Byker**

### Description:

☒ Letter: ☐ Telegram: Other:

To: **The President**

From: **State Senator Gary Byker**

Date: **Feb. 21, 1975**

Subject: **Resolution that any farmer whose livestock herds or poultry flocks that have been contaminated by PBB to be eligible for disaster loans**

**R/p 456-6554**

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**

**Assistant Director, Domestic Council**

(White House Suspense Copy)



March 10, 1975

Dear Senator Byker:

President Ford has asked me to thank you for your recent letter to him enclosing the resolution passed by the Michigan State Senate regarding contaminated livestock and poultry feed.

The President was distressed to learn about this unfortunate situation and as he has requested, I have forwarded your letter and resolution to the appropriate members of the Cabinet staff for their immediate attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

James H. Palk  
Associate Director  
Domestic Council

Honorable Gary Byker  
State Senator  
State Capitol  
Lansing, Michigan

*Norm Ross*  
bcc: ~~For Action~~ with incoming for action





DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

Honorable Gary Byker  
State Senator  
State Capitol  
Lansing, Michigan 48902

April 8, 1975

Dear Senator Byker:

This is in reply to your inquiry dated February 21, 1975, with an attached Resolution, addressed to President Ford, requesting that a disaster situation be declared in Michigan concerning contamination of livestock herds and poultry flocks. We have examined all of the relevant statutes and regret that no authority exists which would enable the Federal Government to provide relief in this situation.

Under the Dairy Indemnity Payment Program, only producers whose dairy products have been removed from the commercial market because of contamination by pesticide residues can be indemnified by the Federal Government. The contamination to the livestock herds and poultry flocks in Michigan occurred from residues of the chemical Polybrominated Biphenyl (PBB). As PBB is a chemical and not a pesticide, the Michigan farmers could not qualify for an indemnity payment under the regulations.

Similarly, Federal indemnities are not available to the Michigan farmers under APHIS programs. The APHIS legislation only provides for compensation in situations in which a communicable disease has been diagnosed and a specific program is adopted to eradicate the disease. Contamination of the Michigan herds and flocks by PBB does not present a communicable disease situation.

Pursuant to Farmer Home Administration legislation, the Secretary of Agriculture is authorized to make emergency loans available in areas in which a natural disaster has occurred. The President has similar authority under the Disaster Relief Act of 1974 in cases where a major natural disaster has occurred. The same criterion of natural disaster exists for emergency feed to be provided as a grant by Commodity Credit Corporation. The contamination situation provides no basis for providing emergency disaster loans or emergency feed by the Federal Government, and no basis exists for the declaration of an emergency natural disaster designation in Michigan under present legislation.

No relief is available to the Michigan farmers under the Federal Tort Claims Act. The chemical PBB was apparently mixed with feed provided to the farmers by the supplier and no act of negligence occurred on the part of the Federal Government.



We understand that litigation is pending between the farmers and the feed supplier along with the company which manufactured the PBB. We further understand that a portion of the losses have already been paid by insurance carriers of the feed supplier and/or the chemical company. While there is no basis for reimbursing the farmers for their losses under existing statutes, the Michigan farmers may be able to recover additional amounts under the current pending litigation in the Michigan state courts. It may also be possible to have a private relief bill introduced in Congress to cover their losses.

Sincerely,

JOHN DAMGARD  
Deputy Assistant Secretary



THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

To: Secretary Records  
Department of Agriculture

Date: March 17, 1975

*not waiting to  
Bill Nichols  
to make request  
4-8-75*

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☐ Draft reply for:
  - ☐ President's signature.
  - ☐ Undersigned's signature.
- ☐ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.
- ☐ Direct reply.
- ☐ Furnish information copy.
- ☐ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.
- ☐ Furnish copy of reply, if any.
- ☐ For your information.
- ☐ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS: Please prepare a draft of appropriate remarks which could be used in response to this letter concerning the comments made on school lunches.

Description:

☒ Letter: ☐ Telegram: ☐ Other:

To: President Ford

From: Frank R. Yakovich

Date: undated

Subject: School lunches and inviting the Pres. to attend the 100 Masonic Anniversary in Johnstown, Pa.

R/p 456-6554

By direction of the President:

Norman E. Ross, Jr.

Assistant Director, Domestic Council



(White House Suspense Copy)



DRAFT REPLY OF LETTER TO FRANK R. YAKOVICH

Thank you for your recent letter expressing your views on the National School Lunch Program.

As designed by Congress, the goal of the National School Lunch Program is to safeguard the health and well-being of the Nation's children through the service of nutritious, reasonably priced lunches to students. Secondly, the program is designed to contribute to a better understanding of good nutrition and improved food habits that will benefit students throughout their lifetimes. Thus, the program provides good nutrition and teaches it also. The nutritional goal of the program is to furnish at least one-third of a student's Recommended Daily Dietary Allowances as established by the National Research Council.

The National School Lunch Act has always provided that free and reduced price lunches shall be served to children unable to pay the full price of the lunch. Legislation in recent years requires schools to provide such lunches to children who meet eligibility standards established by the school. These standards must be based on family size and income, and they must be within the minimum-maximum income poverty guidelines set by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Legislation in 1970 also provided that determinations regarding the income of any household shall be made solely on the basis of a simple affidavit signed by an adult member of the household. The purpose of this provision is to avoid delays in providing program benefits to needy children.

Once applications are approved, however, school officials may verify the information on them. If, as a result of the verification or because of complaints, school officials believe the information on an application is false, they have an obligation to challenge the continued eligibility of the child. The challenge must be made under the fair hearing procedures described in Section 245.7 of the regulations, and the child would continue to receive free or reduced price meals pending the outcome of the challenge.

We do not support the proposed universal free school lunch program. While we are committed to providing free school lunches to those who cannot afford them, we do not believe Federal funds should pay the full cost of lunches for affluent children.

Your concern and interest in child nutrition programs are appreciated.





# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary Records  
Room 125 W  
Dept. of Agriculture

Date: March 18, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
To: President Ford  
From: Trimpe, Chairman of Haskell County, Kansas ASC Cmte.  
Date: March 10, 1975  
Subject: concerned about the farm economy decline - wants the President to replace manipulation with free world markets.

p/Ross 456-6554

By direction of the President:

Norman E. Ross, Jr. Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

Ans'd 4-24-75

(White House Suspense Copy)



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary Records  
Room 125-W  
Department of Agriculture

Date: March 19, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

Please note writer received Christmas card from the President this past year.

### Description:

1 Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: President Ford

From: Waites W. Worrell, President, Wayco Old Southern Ham Corp.

Date: March 14, 1975

Subject: Concerned about processing Country Hams - he has suggestions and recommendations of processing Hams

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross, Jr.*

Norman E. Ross, Jr.

Assistant Director, Domestic Council

R/pt 3-19-75

*ansd 4-25-75*

(White House Suspense Copy)



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary - Records**  
**Room 125-W**  
**Department of Agriculture**

Date: **March 19, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

5 pieces of communication on kChild Nutrition (1) Prof. Lachance; (2) Congressman Geo. Mahon; (3) Ellsworth S. Statler, Superintendent of Schools; (4) Joseph M. Cronin, Superintendent of Education, Illinois and (5) another tele from Cronin

### Description:

see above

\_\_\_\_\_ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: Other:

To: **President Ford**

From: **see above**

Date: **various dates**

Subject: **Child nutrition**

Ross/p 456-6554

By direction of the President:

**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**

**Assistant Director, Domestic Council**

Ans'd 4-28-75

(White House Suspense Copy)



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: Secretary Records  
Department of Agriculture

Date: March 20am  
March 20, 1975

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

### Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **The President**

From: **Senator Strom Thurmond**

Date: **March 14, 1975**

Subject: **Urging the President support S. 434 - which will help COTTON farmers**

Ross/p 456-6554

By direction of the President: *710-1235-1234*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**  
Assistant Director, Domestic Council

*ansd 4-24-75*



(White House Suspense Copy)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20250

April 3, 1975

Mr. Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director  
Domestic Council  
The White House

Dear Mr. Ross:

This responds to your request of March 20 for a draft reply to a letter President Ford has received from Senator Strom Thurmond concerning the cotton situation and some of the problems facing cotton farmers in South Carolina and throughout the Southeast.

A draft reply to Senator Thurmond is enclosed.

Sincerely,

CLAYTON YEUTTER  
Assistant Secretary

Enclosure





DRAFT REPLY TO LETTER FROM SENATOR STROM THURMOND  
CONCERNING THE CURRENT COTTON SITUATION AND SEEKING  
SUPPORT FOR A TARGET PRICE OF 55 CENTS PER POUND FOR COTTON

We are deeply sympathetic to the plight of farmers, particularly cotton producers, caught in today's spiral of rising cost of production and lower market prices for their cotton. Even so, there is a need to recognize that if support levels are too high and cotton is not fully competitive, stocks will rise, markets would shrink, government inventory and outlays would increase to prohibitive levels; production resources would be misdirected. Obviously, this would not be in the best interest of anyone.

With current demand very low, there is a surplus of cotton, both domestically and worldwide; farmers' plans to reduce 1975 cotton plantings about 4 million acres—based on the Prospective Plantings report issued March 17—reflect the realities of the situation. Sharp reductions in domestic consumption and exports are projected for this marketing year, and this means a substantially higher carryover is in prospect on August 1, 1975—more than 6 million bales may be on hand, compared with 3.9 million last August 1. A similar situation exists in other cotton producing and consuming countries; world carryover stocks are expected to increase for the fourth consecutive year. In fact, world cotton stocks on August 1, 1975, are now estimated to reach 30.4 million bales, an increase of 50 percent from the August 1, 1971, stock level of 20.3 million bales.

Increasing the 1975 target price would encourage additional cotton production. Based upon current market demands, this would be detrimental to the cotton industry and to the country as a whole. Since the additional cotton produced would be in excess of present needs, it would eventually wind up in government stocks, pushing up operating costs at a time when concerns of the National budget dictate economy. Also, additional stocks, whether government or private, at a time of low offtake would depress already weakened prices and result in increased government payments.





THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

REFERRAL

ent to  
Kendall - 4-15

To: Secretary Records  
Department of Agriculture

Date: March 26, 1975

ACTION REQUESTED

- ☒ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
☒ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_ For comment.

NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

REMARKS:

PLEASE GIVE THIS PRIORITY

Description:

☒ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_  
To: President Ford  
From: March 17, 1975  
Date: Senator James Abourezk  
Subject: Statements from S. D. farmers opposing grain exports stoppage and Agriculture's position on farm prices. Critical economic situation facing farmers.

By direction of the President:

Ross/p 456-6554

Norman E. Ross, Jr., Assistant Director  
Domestic Council

Pls. note draft reply to go forward to Kendall



(White House Suspense Copy)

April 17, 1978

Dear Senator:

This is in further response to your March 17 letter to the President in support of the farmers in your State who expressed opposition to the stopping of grain exports and the position of the Department of Agriculture concerning farm prices.

The voluntary prior approval system for export sales of grains, soybeans and soybean meal, initiated last October 7, was terminated on March 6. We are taking other positive steps in recognition of the easing supply situation on agricultural commodities. These include increasing foreign food assistance expenditures by almost \$600 million which will permit the volume of grain to increase by an additional 2 million tons over a year ago, and intensifying our market development activities abroad.

We would expect that farmers will respond at planting time to what they see in the marketplace. The policy of this Administration is to provide farmers with the freedom to make management decisions without government interference.

Whether, when all the price and cost information has been studied by farmers, their decision will be to cut back or to expand their planted acreages, no one can say as yet. We expect, however, that the market will provide incentives attractive enough to keep cropland acreage this year as high as it was in 1974 and perhaps even higher.



We appreciate your writing on this matter, and hope that this information will be helpful to you.

With kind regards,

Sincerely,

William T. Kendall  
Deputy Assistant  
to the President

The Honorable James Abourezk  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
bcc w/inc to Norm Ross - FYI  
WTK:EP:Agriculture:rg



# THE WHITE HOUSE OFFICE

## REFERRAL

To: **Secretary's Records**  
**Room 125-W**  
**Department of Agriculture**

Date: **March 28, 1975**

### ACTION REQUESTED

- ~~XXXXX~~ Draft reply for:  
\_\_\_\_\_ President's signature.  
~~XXXXXXXXX~~ Undersigned's signature.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Memorandum for use as enclosure to reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Direct reply.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish information copy.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling.  
\_\_\_\_\_ Furnish copy of reply, if any.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For your information.  
\_\_\_\_\_ For comment.

### NOTE

*Prompt action is essential.*

If more than 72 hours' delay is encountered, please telephone the undersigned immediately, Code 1450.

Basic correspondence should be returned when draft reply, memorandum, or comment is requested.

### REMARKS:

*Drafted by Becece - 447-2370 -*

### Description:

~~XXXX~~ Letter: \_\_\_\_\_ Telegram: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

To: **President Ford**  
From: **Emidio Frezze, Jr. - President of American Mushroom Institute**  
Date: **March 21, 1975**  
Subject: **Concerned about the discontinuation of the Crop Reporting Service.**

*final reply not typed  
sent complete file  
to WH files 6/20*

NEROSS/ee

By direction of the President:

*Norman E. Ross, Jr.*  
**Norman E. Ross, Jr.**  
**Assistant Director**  
**Domestic Council**



(White House Suspense Copy)



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

Mr. Norman E. Ross, Jr.  
Assistant Director, Domestic Council  
Executive Office of the President  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Ross:

Transmitted herewith is a draft response to a  
letter addressed to President Ford from Emidio  
Fresno of the American Mushroom Institute. We  
trust you will find it satisfactory.

Sincerely,



RE: Possible elimination of mushroom reports. From Enidio Fresno, Jr.  
President, American Mushroom Institute

This is in reply to your letter of March 21 concerning the Department of Agriculture budget for Fiscal Year 1976.

The proposed budget does not call for deletion of the Statistical Reporting Service, whose field offices are also known as the Crop Reporting Service. However, the proposed program of the Statistical Reporting Service for Fiscal Year 1976 does suggest the elimination of several activities in consideration of the Administration's overall policy of reducing funding requirements. These activities were considered as making a minimal contribution to the assessment of current and prospective supplies of food and fiber. The Alaska office of SRS and surveys on mushrooms, mink, floriculture, and timber prices would be dropped on this basis. In addition, surveys on white corn and parts of the hog surveys and grain stocks surveys would be dropped because they cover only part of the areas of production. Each of these programs is recognized as being of importance to the special industry or geographic area concerned.

We appreciate your comments relative to the useful nature of the data provided and understand your concern that the program is under consideration for elimination. The appropriate congressional appropriation committees are currently reviewing the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 1976. At this date there has been no decision relative to the elimination of the mushroom program.

