

# Senate ag committee votes to forgo dairy hike

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry approved a bill to repeal authority for the semiannual increases in dairy price supports.

The bill (S. 509) was introduced by Senator Jesse Helms, Chairman

of the Senate Agriculture Committee, at the request of the Reagan Administration.

The vote on the bill, which now goes to the full Senate, was generally recognized as the first test in Congress of President Reagan's budget-cutting efforts

Enactment of the legislation to forego the increase scheduled for April 1 will save an estimated \$160 million this fiscal year and another \$86 million in fiscal 1982, according to the Congressional Budget Office

The vote was 14 for the bill, two

against, with one vote present."

An amendment to bar imports of milk, protein products and casein was defeated.

Also defeated were amendments to assure adequate funding for the Federal crop insurance program and to initiate a study of using the protein by-product from alcohol fuel production as a food additive. These were defeated after a spokesman for the U.S. Department of Agriculture assured the Committee there would be money available for the crop insurance program from funds already appropriated and that a study

would be made of the protein by-product usage.

In his opening statement, Helms said the initial proposal to forego the April 1 increase was made by former President Carter, and has been endorsed by Agriculture Secretary Block.


Helms said, "I wish to make clear that this legislation does one thing and one thing only. It eliminates the semiannual price adjustments, including the adjustment scheduled for April 1. Price supports will remain at their October 1, 1980, level of 80 percent of parity."

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