

Butz Defends

Nixon Milk

Actions

Los Angeles

Nixon administration actions favorable to milk producers were justified, according to Agriculture Secretary Earl Butz.

Admitting that the sequence of events in the alleged "milk deal" looks "suspicious on the surface," Butz said that nevertheless he would have recommended actions similar to those taken by his predecessor, Clifford Hardin.

The administration actions are under investigation by federal authorities probing their possible connection to Nixon campaign contributions.

SPEECH

Butz said in a speech here that the dairy industry needed government assistance to balance increased costs in cattle feed.

Investigative sources have revealed that President Nixon received a letter in December, 1970, from a dairy industry representative reminding him of its past political support.

The letter pointed out that the industry had \$2 million available for 1972 campaign contributions, but that aid for the nation's dairy farmers was necessary if they were to continue their support.

MOVES

Among the favorable Nixon administration moves were a 10 per cent increase in dairy subsidies in 1971, the approval of new industry-supported milk tariffs and an increase in federal price supports for milk.

All told, the moves were worth more than \$500 million to the nation's milk producers.

Los Angeles Times