

CHRISTOFFERSEN POULTRY, EGG, AND FEED MARKET,
Turlock, Calif., January 10, 1968.

Hon. JOHN J. McFALL,
Representative, Capitol Building, Washington, D.C.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN McFALL: We sincerely trust you will take time to read this letter as we feel it contains very important information which will assist you in making your decisions on these problems here in mention.

We have heard on the news media, that President Johnson is going to request the Legislators to pass a bill curtailing United States citizens from manufacturing portions of their products in other countries and bring it into the United States and also curtailing travel from the United States to other countries by either charging a tax on travel or limiting the amount of money spent.

This letter has no intentions, in any degree, of reflecting on the integrity of our President, but, to give you some idea of what we have observed through our business as exporters, as well as traveling extensively abroad. Each year, for many years, we have visited several countries in selling our turkeys and turkey products.

The wages in America have been increased so high in proportion to foreign countries to the extent that each year a greater percentage of foreign products are imported into our country. Most of our duties are so low on imports, putting our own products at a disadvantage cost wise. Therefore, the industry in America has had to resort to build a great amount of their component parts in other countries in order to live with competition. Even our government buys from other countries for less.

In our own industry, turkeys, the Common Market Countries had duties and charges of 4½ cents per pound before the Common Market took effect. After the effective day, they raised it to around 14 cents per pound and have made very little adjustment since. The year before Common Market Countries started, we sold 2¼ million pounds into Germany, but, with this heavy increase of charges and duties, our business thus has dropped to 20% of what we formally sold in Germany. The high duties and charges have greatly effected the United States exports into the Common Market of our poultry, but look at all the products these countries are shipping into America with practically no duties.

We have just illustrated a few of the problems industry has in America, not only in one group of countries, but all the countries of the world. Our industries are confronted with tremendous imports of foreign countries products.

We can keep our money in balance if we will make a careful study of the imports of our agricultural and other products into our country and wherever they are effecting our own economy by putting our own people out of work. We must increase the duties or charges on these products thus preventing our monies from leaving our country.

1. The general wages on steel, automobiles, etc., must hold their wage line to protect America and her people against this tremendous inflation trend we are now experiencing.

2. We should charge all foreign countries, who impose exorbitant duties and charges upon United States products, as great a duty and or charges upon the import of their merchandise into the United States.

3. The State Department must be more firm in our position on any agreements than we have been in the past; thus, protecting our industry and employees in America. They also must realize that all these countries are hard boiled bargain makers and will do most anything including yelling and screaming to scare America into giving into their goals and purposes.

4. Any country, which we trade with, who exports their products into the U.S.A.-import duties on their products should be so set by our country to protect our employees and industries of similar products manufactured in our own country.

5. To curtail the government expenditures of U.S. dollars in foreign countries. A few years ago, I wrote many legislators and suggested that if five brilliant businessmen were selected to analyse all departments of government expenditures, with the authority to hire or fire, demote or promote, we could save a staggering amount of money. Some method; however, must be devised which will accomplish wasteful expenditures through all departments.

We have a lot of work to do in our own country to protect our employees and industry. The above recommendations, I believe, would help to make a tremendous economical recovery.