The Dairy Import Act of 1967 could be one of the most important pieces of dairy legislation to be considered by the Congress in the last 20 years. Since being originally introduced in January of 1967 by my distinguished colleague from California, the Honorable B. F. Sisk, more than 200 other Members of the House and 59 Members of the other body have seen fit to cosponsor the legislation. All who have cosponsored the measure know that unless it is passed, the dairy industry of this country will continue to be severely affected.

Dairy product imports are increasing at an alarming rate, with the U.S. Department of Agriculture estimating that in 1967 more than 3.5 billion pounds of milk equivalent was imported.

The quotas presently in effect are not working. For example, the U.S. quota on butterfat-sugar mixture used in ice cream applies only to imports containing 45 percent or more butterfat and 25 percent or more sugar. Importers have only to cut these ingredients 1 percent below the minimums, and ship in unlimited quantities—which they are doing.

Dairy imports have been limited since 1953 by authority of section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1935. The problem lies in the fact that imports are controlled on specifically defined products such as cheddar cheese, butter, blue mold cheese, Italian type cheese, and other products. There are no limitations on variations of these products.

Effective import controls are necessary so that our dairy farmers will have an opportunity to achieve parity prices for their milk and butterfat. If these imports are allowed to continue, then many dairy farmers will be driven out of business; and consequently, the prices to consumers will increase.

The Presidential proclamation, which was effective in July of 1967, although helpful, has not brought dairy imports under permanent or effective control. Even now, additional commodities are entering the United States through the mechanism of modifications in container sizes and types. Experience in controlling imports under section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act proves conclusively that new legislation is badly needed.

Another great industry in our country, the beef cattle industry, has as well had great difficulties because of excessive imports of meat into our country.

One of the major difficulties experienced by the beef-cattle industry is that the Federal Government has encouraged beef cattle production on acres diverted from other types of crop production. Domestic beef production since 1960 has increased 35 percent. Meanwhile the world beef trade was expanding itself into the American market. This situation was realized in 1964 when the Congress passed Public Law 88-482, which established quantitative limitations on meat imports.

However, there were serious loopholes in the 1964 law. It is incumbent then on this Congress to tighten up the 1964 law in light of several major areas which are easily recognizable as problem areas in the beef production industry.

The industry itself must achieve a level of stability and self-confidence on a broad scale if it is to continue to attract beef producers who will risk personal capital to enter the field.