

The encouragement of foreign countries by our Government in building their own cattle industries with the goal of exporting for American dollars is well known to this committee. New legislation needs to be implemented which will cause these countries to gear their exports to an exact, known figure, in order that our own domestic growth will not be impeded.

The Nation's beef cattle industry presently lacks stability because it cannot plan to meet future demands if an unreasonable amount of its beef supply is furnished by foreign peoples over whom we seemingly have little authority or control. What is needed then is a change in the ground rules to enable the domestic beef producing industry to more precisely predict and execute its planning for the future. We must never find ourselves dependent on meat supplies from other shores. We must, therefore, limit and regulate the exporters and some of our own importers.

Mr. Chairman, I originally introduced in the House a bill which would amend the tariff schedules of the United States in regard to honey and honey products. Much has been said about the fact that we are a net exporting country and that imports should not be causing any difficulties. I would like any member of this distinguished committee to explain this to an American beekeeper, whose customers are buying imported honey, or to a beekeeper who has reduced his price to meet the price of foreign competitors. I would ask anyone to explain, if possible, to an American beekeeper that honey imports do not affect our honey price support program, or beekeepers who have been forced to deliver honey to the Commodity Credit Corporation because their buyers are importing honey.

The honey import bill should be passed so that the beekeepers may have an opportunity to achieve the national goal in public policy, clearly set forth in all major agricultural legislation, that they might have an opportunity to achieve parity prices for their honey and wax. A beekeeper should enjoy a level of income commensurate with that received by other segments of our economy; and our Nation should have a thrifty beekeeping industry maintaining sufficient colonies of bees to insure adequate pollination for nearly 90 percent food and fiber products.

We have witnessed in the recent months administrative changes in the mandatory oil import program which have seriously weakened its effectiveness and its integrity, insofar as the petroleum industry is concerned. The petroleum industry in Oklahoma is struggling for its very survival, and various pressures on the oil import program have had substantial impact.

Various factors have brought about congressional interest:

1. Lessened confidence in the American dollar abroad, and our country's chronic balance-of-payments deficit in which oil imports figure as a dominant influence.

2. The two major disruptions in the flow of Arab oil during the last 10 years, which have brought home the folly of unnecessarily extending our country's dependence on foreign oil supplies.

3. A 45-percent drop in domestic exploratory drilling since 1956; a trend which many feel cannot be reversed in the absence of an import program which does not enjoy industry confidence.