Those are just two examples of the many letters I have received recently on dairy problems. It is much the same with meat imports.

During 1966 893 million pounds of beef were imported into this country last year the figure rose to 979 million pounds. In the first 4 months of 1968 beef imports rose more than 16 percent over the comparable period in 1967.

Mr. Tom Hovenden has supplied me with a statement by Richard D. Blincoe, president of the Idaho Cattle Feeders Association, in which he says that meat import legislation is necessary in order to "bring economic stability to a basic domestic commodity production program that is essential to the overall prosperity of the United States." His full statement is already before your committee, and I urge that it be read.

George L. Hays, a member of the Idaho Cattlemen's Association, puts the blame squarely on Congress for "failing to put forth enough effort to get the job done." He adds that the cattlemen can no longer endure "24 cent beef calves, 8 percent money, and empty promises."

Mink ranchers have also felt the pinch of foreign imports. Recently I received a petition from hundreds of these ranchers in my district pleading for congressional relief. Their petition reads:

Since mink ranching is an integral part of the agricultural economy of the Distirct and the State, and since the industry has been seriously hurt by excessive imports, we request that you actively support legislation which assures that we will not lose any more of our domestic market to foreign ranchers who pay no taxes here, pay no labor here, contributed nothing to the area, and elect no public officials here, but do take a free ride on the extensive market development which our own ranchers have provided for the past many years.

We are disturbed about the manner in which Congress has allowed our agricultural economy to be sacrificed to obtain concessions from other countries of the world for American industrial products.

They know whereof they speak, for we imported 5,346,551 undressed mink pelts in 1967. By May of 1968, mink imports had risen above the number of pelts imported during the first 5 months last year.

You have before you a statement from the Idaho Beekeepers Association which shows that honey production, like so many other segments of the agricultural community, is in serious trouble, and like the others, most of the problem is directly traceable to foreign competition.

Honey imports come primarily from Central and South America where beekeepers' helpers are paid wages averaging 30 cents a day. The comparable figure in Idaho is around $16 per day.

It may surprise you to learn that many other agricultural crops depend upon honey bees for pollination, and Grant Blake, president of the Idaho Beekeepers Association, predicts that in the foreseeable future there will not be enough honey bees available for this purpose.

Then, there is the matter of textiles. You have heard endless testimony from representatives of this industry, so I need not recite again the struggle for survival that they face today. Woolgrowers in my district share their concern.

The Parma Wool Pool Association, of Parma, Idaho, speaking for 250 woolgrowers, wrote recently.

The economic situation for domestic wool producers is growing more serious each year, with a good part of the reason being the relatively unrestricted wool