

imports allowed * * *. Many of our members are being forced out of the wool and lamb business * * *. We appeal to you to enlist your support in further restricting wool imports and in setting up higher tariffs.

Right or wrong, it is Congress that is being taken to task for letting our trade policies literally destroy many American industries. The letters I have quoted are representative of hundreds of others that have come into my office during the past year. Recently, they have taken on a tone of despair, of the hopelessness that comes when a just cause has been abandoned. Let me quote from one more letter which arrived in my office only 3 weeks ago. It is from a farmer who lives near Weiser, Idaho. This is what he says:

I attended a meeting at Ontario, Oregon, when a government panel was holding meetings to get opinions from farmers as to what's wrong with family farming. Well, there was lots of suggestions as what could be done to help and what the true facts are. But I don't hear about anything being done by my Government. You see, Mr. McClure, I must face the fact that the government that is supposed to represent me, has gone by the wayside. My government is not interested in the well being of a family farmer. Now, if I was too lazy to work and wouldn't try to help myself, then the Government would help me. Or if I was a poor farmer in some far and distant land, then Uncle Sam would be concerned and want to help * * *. I'm asking for only one thing, and that is a fair chance.

No one as of now knows what the solution to the farm problem really is. But surely we can agree that the best beginning toward finding that solution lies in restoring the confidence of the farmer in his Government. If the administration won't take the necessary steps, then certainly Congress must.

Without meaning to unduly embarrass you, Mr. Chairman, I recall that it has been said you are the second most powerful man in the country today. While there are those who feel such statements actually underestimate your capacities, let me say that you and your committee have an opportunity that is not available to even the most powerful man, the President. For you are in a position to correct his mistakes.

Surely a policy that drives the farmer off of his farm, that puts the miner on the relief rolls, must be a policy that is wrong. An answer must be found that is neither protectionist nor self-defeating. Flexible quotas, in tune to current domestic economic conditions, can and must be drawn, or else the sense of hopelessness that eats into the heart of an Idaho farmer will eventually eat into the hearts of all of us.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. McClure, thank you for sharing your views with us; any questions?

Our next witness then is Mr. Arthur K. Watson, Chairman of the Emergency Committee for American Trade.

Mr. Watson, we are indeed gratified this morning that you are taking time from what I know is a very busy schedule as the head of a great American corporation to come to us and discuss this matter. We appreciate your doing it and if you will identify those at the table with you we will be glad to recognize you.