in each of the last 3 years, but not enough to invoke the existing quota laws.

If we are to have legislation regulating the importation of meat, it should be made effective. It cannot be unless significant changes are made. To that end, we encourage your committee to recommend these needed changes to the Congress.

Those of us who support the Meat Import Act realize that trade is not a one-way street. But, in this connection, I would point out to the committee that, with regard to meat and meat products, we had an unfavorable balance of trade of $493 million in 1967. This is nearly the sum the President had hoped to recoup with his proposed tax on foreign travel.

Twenty years ago, the average price received on the sale of choice slaughter steers in Chicago was $30.96 per hundred pounds. Last Friday, the market in Chicago for choice steers closed at $27, a drop of nearly $4. During this same period, the wages of factory labor have increased in excess of 100 percent. The farmer cannot afford to continue to operate on a reduced income and pay higher prices for everything he must purchase.

Meat imports into this country are depressing the market price to the point where little, if any, profit remains in one of the Nation's major industries. Action to modernize our meat import laws would be of considerable benefit to the economy of the Seventh District of Iowa and the meat-producing areas of the Nation.

DAIRY IMPORTS

Because of the harmful impact of dairy imports on our domestic producers, on March 22, 1967, I introduced H.R. 7649, the Dairy Import Act of 1967. In all, over 200 individual Members of the House have introduced identical legislation.

In my testimony before the U.S. Tariff Commission on May 15, 1967, I stated that the level of dairy imports was a significant factor in the seemingly endless closing down of dairy farms throughout the country.

Because dairy imports in 1966 had tripled those in 1965, and the outlook was even more disastrous for 1967, the Tariff Commission determined that the level of dairy imports was interfering with the Government's price support program. It therefore called upon the President to issue a proclamation on this important matter.

When President Johnson announced on June 30, 1967, that imports on dairy products would be reduced to "one-fourth of the present volume beginning July 1, 1967," I was one of the first to applaud his decision, although pointing out that this action should have been taken long ago.

There is no question that action under section 22 provided some relief to the Nation's dairy farmers, and a reduction in the flow of imports. There was a temporary slowup in imports.

However, section 22 action has defects. To begin with, the proclamation is not permanent, and is thus subject to change at the whim of administrative officials.

Furthermore, the quotas under section 22 are on a commodity basis; thus loopholes are always available. It has proven relatively easy to