

Passage of this pending legislation would plug loopholes which have made the 1964 Import Act not only impractical but virtually unworkable. Certainly it has been ineffective so far as providing protection to the U.S. livestock industry is involved. Action by this committee and the Congress has become even more urgently needed since the Kennedy round conferences in Geneva early this year opened the way for still more shipments of foreign meats into the United States.

It is of little comfort or use to the domestic industry to say that these foreign processed meats are of cheaper grades and are not highly competitive with American-raised beef. They count in the total demand of American consumers for meat, and the U.S. grower is left holding the sack. He takes the cut.

All of these processed imported meats, Mr. Chairman, should be considered in totaling up the amount to be allowed into this country before quotas are triggered. I strongly endorse provisions of the pending legislation to bring this about, and to require the Defense Department meat purchases abroad for the U.S. servicemen stationed overseas likewise be included in calculating the quota-free shipments.

Again I urge that the committee approve H.R. 9475 or similar legislation.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any questions, if not, then thank you Mr. Abernethy, for sharing your views with us.

Mr. ABERNETHY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. The Honorable Olin E. Teague of Texas is our next witness. Welcome sir, it is good to have you.

STATEMENT OF HON. OLIN E. TEAGUE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. TEAGUE. Mr. Chairman, I wish to express my appreciation to you and your committee for holding hearings on my bill, H.R. 9219, and H.R. 9475 a similar bill introduced by the chairman, and related bills which propose to revise the quota control system on the importation of certain meat and meat products.

There is no industry in America which is so fundamental to the economic stability of the Nation as is the beef cattle business. Beef cattle are raised in substantial numbers in every State of the Union. I recently saw a figure published by the Department of Agriculture estimating that the Nation's beef breeding herd is valued in excess of \$10 billion. Beef cattle raising has historically been the bulwark of the agricultural free enterprise system and has functioned for 200 years without interference or control by the Federal Government except for brief war periods. It has provided the American public with dependable supplies of high quality meat at cheap prices matched nowhere else in the world.

This great and important industry is in serious financial trouble. I will not take the time of the committee to document in great detail this fact that is so well known by everyone. An article which I saw yesterday in the Wall Street Journal tells the story just as effectively as it would be told by complicated charts and tables. The article was entitled "Farm Expenses Steady During June But Revenue Slipped." The subtitle of the article was "Agriculture Department Reports Par-