

2. Utilize a more realistic base period.
3. Utilize quarterly quotas instead of annual quotas.
4. Include canned, cooked, and cured meats in the quotas.
5. Include military offshore purchases in the quotas.

Enactment of this legislation would create a more orderly quota system under which foreign producers and domestic producers could depend. It would result in only a modest rollback of the total amount of imports which this country could receive. American cattlemen are not seeking to exclude foreign beef. They are willing to share their market. American cattlemen are not trying to obtain a substantial increase in beef prices because this would be inconsistent with their programs for increased domestic and foreign consumption. They do desire and must have a price structure which will permit a modest profit. American cattlemen have embarked on a voluntary control program to reduce domestic output and they are entitled to cooperation in developing a more orderly program for control on imports.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Teague, for sharing your view with us this morning.

Our next witness is from Oklahoma, the Honorable Tom Steed. Mr. Steed, we appreciate your being with us this morning and you are recognized.

STATEMENT OF HON. TOM STEED, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

Mr. STEED. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity of making this statement before you and your subcommittee today on the need for further action on two problems substantially affecting our domestic economy and prosperity, those of beef imports and dairy imports.

The general review of the tariff and imports question your committee is conducting is of great benefit in focusing attention on these problems and I commend your action in undertaking this intricate and significant task at this time.

As you know, the beef cattle industry is the largest single source of agricultural income in our country. The vast majority of States is significantly involved in it economically. From the standpoint of national prosperity its vital nature is self-evident.

In 1964, I was one of the cosponsors of Public Law 482 of the 88th Congress, now the basic legislation in the beef imports field. As you will recall, this legislation represented the most effective formula we were able to get, with your help, in the face of objections by the administration. It has served to establish the principle of maintaining economic conditions that will allow our domestic beef cattle industry to operate with a reasonable chance of success.

In practice, all laws reveal inequities and areas of potential improvement. This one is no exception, and several key changes should be undertaken. In my opinion, these are best embodied in the measure of which you are the chief sponsor, H.R. 9475, which I am proud to co-sponsor in H.R. 9725.

I will take no more time than to summarize the five principal improvements that will make the beef imports limitations more practical under the terms of the bill: