

The bill of which I am joint sponsor, H.R. 9214, which is identical to that of Mr. Watts, H.R. 6030, and those of several other members of the committee will provide this basis.

You are already familiar with the recent alarming developments in the dairy imports field. The dairy business is a subject with which I gained some familiarity when serving for several years as chairman of the Dairy Subcommittee of the House Small Business Committee. We held hearings throughout the country on the state of the industry. It already faced vertical integration and other serious economic problems at that time, and that was before the real onset of the imports tide.

This industry faces economic disaster unless an effective and reliable lid is imposed on the imports.

I appreciate the attention the committee is giving to these and similar problems, and I hope we can make progress toward a legislative solution.

The CHAIRMAN. We appreciate your bringing to us your thoughts, Mr. Steed.

The next witness is also from Oklahoma, our colleague, Mr. Belcher. You are recognized and you may proceed as you see fit.

STATEMENT OF HON. PAGE BELCHER, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA

MR. BELCHER. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank this committee for the consideration it is giving to the matter of imports which daily seems to be a more serious problem for an increasing number of industries in the United States. I am grateful for the opportunity to express to you my special concern over the growing problem of beef imports.

Bills presently pending before this committee and the Senate Committee on Finance seek modifications in the provisions of Public Law 88-482 which are absolutely essential to the health and future of our domestic cattle industry. In fact, so well has the need for these modifications been documented and demonstrated in the past 18 months that I am somewhat at a loss to know what I can say to this committee that would be both new and helpful.

During the hearings before the Senate Finance Committee last fall the major provisions of S. 1588 and a number of identical House bills were discussed and the need for them well and succinctly outlined by Senator Roman L. Hruska in testimony which can be found beginning on page 710 of those hearings. The distressed condition of the American livestock producer was illuminated in greater detail by the executive secretary-treasurer of the National Livestock Feeders Association, beginning on page 750 of that hearing record and by the executive vice president of the American National Cattlemen's Association whose testimony appears beginning on page 764. My own statement to the Senate Finance Committee appears, beginning on page 782.

Mr. Chairman, the situation described at that time has not materially changed. If anything, it has grown worse and the American cattleman cannot wait much longer for this Congress to make the modifications in Public Law 88-482.

I do not wish to unnecessarily burden the record of this hearing with repetitious detail. I have read a draft of the statement which will