

meats are not included in this quota and imports in this category approximated 120 million pounds last year with a substantial increase occurring each year.

In my bill, H.R. 8293, which I introduced April 10, 1967, I included canned and prepared meats within the basic quota. Furthermore, I eliminate the 110 percent before restrictions on imports are triggered and I make mandatory upon the President the cutting off of imports rather than discretionary as under the present law when 100 percent of the quota is reached.

Knowledgeable cattlemen, who have made recent trips to Australia and New Zealand, have informed me that Australia can double their beef production within a very short period of time and they have their eye on the American market. Some prominent American citizens have invested in cattle operations in Australia. It is alleged that these people feel they have sufficient influence in the United States to prohibit the adoption of any additional laws which would tighten up on imports of beef.

Imports of beef, according to charts put out by the Department of Agriculture, and with which you are familiar, show a definite relationship to the price of cattle in the United States. The cattlemen are the last free and completely independent segment of our American economy. They do not want Government controls nor price supports. I feel very strongly that they are entitled to protection from foreign imports by our Government. It is time, Mr. Chairman, that we give first consideration to American industry and to the American taxpayers rather than consideration of our image in the eyes of foreign countries.

My bill is a modest one as to what it will accomplish, as it would cut back on import quotas approximately 220 million pounds below the present law. This is based on eliminating the 110-percent provision plus including the approximately 120 million pounds of canned and prepared meats imported into this country last year.

I commend you, Mr. Chairman, and your committee, for holding hearings on this important matter which is of such great concern to our American economy. I trust that you will report out, promptly, legislation to further curtail the imports of beef.

I thank you for your attention and the time you have given me.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Martin, for sharing your views with us.

Mr. MARTIN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it has been a pleasure.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Talcott. Mr. Talcott is our colleague from California. It is certainly nice to have you with us today, please proceed.

STATEMENT OF HON. BURT L. TALCOTT, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. TALCOTT. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am very pleased to have this privilege to appear before your committee today. I come here in support of my bill, H.R. 9130, and your bill H.R. 9475, which would amend the Meat Import Act of 1964.

The 12th District in California, which I represent, is a very productive diversified agricultural area. Lettuce, celery, cotton, and straw-