

later, such imports stood at 30 percent or 15.327 million pounds, carcass weight. Although the 1967 import figure is less than the high of 18.304 million pounds of foreign beef imports in 1965, the year after the Meat Import Act was enacted, the slight decrease has not provided Hawaii cattlemen much relief from the damaging effects the dumping and erratic shipments of foreign beef have had on the price structure in Hawaii.

The rising percentage of antipodal beef imports into the Hawaii market does not tell the whole story. There is a marked difference in the quality and price of locally produced beef and foreign beef. Hawaii cattlemen have strived untiringly to produce a quality beef product through grain feeding in feedlots. This they have done while land, labor, and other operational costs have spiraled to new heights. It is clear in the case of the imported beef, which is generally of inferior quality, that it is produced under circumstances where production costs are considerably lower than those for U.S. beef. This of course means unfair competition to Hawaii's cattlemen.

From the viewpoint of the consumers in Hawaii, the importation of cheap foreign beef may initially appear to be a good thing, but there is no guarantee of adequate inspection of such beef for the protection of the health of American consumers. Slaughterhouses throughout the United States now face the requirement of meeting health and sanitation standards under the Wholesome Meat Act of 1967. The stated purpose of that law can never be wholly achieved until foreign packers are also required to meet the same high standards. Failure to impose such requirements on foreign meatpackers would result in the protection of the affluent American whose table is never graced by anything except high grade domestic beef, and the withholding of such protection for the low-income American who is a regular consumer of low-grade foreign beef.

For the protection of the Hawaiian consumer, as well as of Hawaii's cattle industry, therefore, it is recommended that packers of imported foreign beef be required to meet health and sanitation requirements at least equal to U.S. standards. This is not a case of equal protection under the law in the classic legal sense, but a case of enacting equal laws for the protection of all. It is also urged that legislation be enacted to prohibit dumping of excess supplies of foreign beef in ports of entry, such as Honolulu, and to effectuate a more equitable distribution throughout the United States.

These recommendations and supporting statistical information are very well documented in a letter and the accompanying enclosures that I recently received from Robert L. Hind, Jr., president, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc. Because I am confident that these documents will be helpful to the committee in its further review of this aspect of our foreign trade, I submit copies of Mr. Hind's letter of June 14, 1968, and enclosures, and ask that they be printed in the hearing record as a supplement to my statement.

Thank you very much.

(The documents referred to follow:)