

I believe this meat import bill will be a reasonable cure for the ills currently besetting the livestock industry, particularly since it calls for substantial reductions in imports and seeks to prevent sudden flooding of the American market. I have been told that the change in the base period alone will roll back the trigger level by some 20 percent. Further reductions in the total meat imports and counting defense department purchases against the total quota should effectively bolster our farm meat prices.

For the security of the Nation and the maintenance of stable prices, the United States requires a strong, healthy and stable livestock industry. It will not serve the people's welfare to allow our farmers to suffer in the name of free trade or any other concept. We should not deny to stockmen or to the American consumer the advantages of competition, nor should we deny the meat industry in the United States the right to fair competition.

The dairy import bill, H.R. 10318, also seeks to bolster farm prices, by imposing a ceiling on dairy imports no greater than the average annual imports for the 5 calendar years 1961 through 1965. Furthermore, the Secretary of Agriculture would be authorized to make these estimates on a quarterly basis, in an effort to prevent sudden flooding of the market.

This bill is necessary, in my opinion, Mr. Chairman, because of apparent loopholes in existing law, which have permitted lately the flooding of the domestic dairy products market and the continued weakening of farm prices. It is evident when we consider the condition of the farmer that more reasonable quotas must be placed on imported dairy products. According to my sources, income spent on food is expected to continue to drop in the Nation, while at the same time, farm production costs continue at a record high. A proper balance will, I think, be restored by this bill.

Mr. Chairman, I believe that the level of imports under H.R. 10318 and its flexibility of control are consistent with a reasonable trade policy. It also meets the demands for a dependable domestic supply of dairy products.

Moreover, we have today the opportunity with these and companion bills to take really effective action to give financial stability to a group of American citizens who do not now participate in the Nation's general prosperity. Unless we act now still more jobs, principally in our rural areas, will vanish and still more of our rural citizens will be stripped of their self-reliance and self-respect, along with their ability to make their livings. I think we should take action now to prevent still more poverty and hard-core joblessness of which we hear so much in these times, if for no other reason than the obvious economy of prevention.

For these reasons, Mr. Chairman, I ask the committee's serious consideration of H.R. 10318 and H.R. 11033, the meat and dairy import bills, and for a favorable report to the House of Representatives.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Long.

Mr. Denney, our colleague from Nebraska. Please come forward, Mr. Denney; it is good to have you with us this morning.