## STATEMENT OF HON. CLIFFORD P. HANSEN, A U.S. SENATOR FROM THE STATE OF WYOMING

Senator HANSEN. I welcome this opportunity to present a statement in favor of legislation to impose quotas on the import of meat and certain meat products. I represent a State that is heavily dependent upon the vitality and the well-being of the livestock industry. In Wyoming livestock and agriculture are the second biggest income producers.

### THE CASE FOR MEAT IMPORT RESTRICTIONS

We are told of the rising prosperity of the Nation, of the fact that the gross national product is at record high levels. Not so often it is mentioned that the income of the farmer has lagged behind. While others have enjoyed rising standards of living, the farmer and livestock producer have been left out. While cost of living soars, the price of agricultural products has remained constant, and in some instances has declined.

Domestic industries have increasingly sought the intervention of the Congress in recent years against the disruptive effects of rapidly increasing imports, and they have called attention to the balance-of-payments consequences to the Nation of the trends of increasing imports and declining exports. The situation of these industries, including several of the Nation's basic industries, may indicate that in the administration of the customs, tariffs, and trade agreements laws of the United States, there has been a lack of balance and a one-sidedness in judgment which has reduced the protective effects of our domestic customs, tariff, and trade agreements legislation for domestic industries while exaggerating or "liberalizing" the administration of these law for the benefit of importers of foreign-produced goods. Certain domestic industries, like the livestock business, will not survive unless they are protected from excessive imports which glut American markets.

The main function of foreign trade should be to supply materials and products unavailable at home. However, U.S. imports have tended more and more to be goods with a high labor content, manufactured by cheap labor abroad. Imports of this sort help foreign economies, but take away American jobs.

During the past 4 years, while the trend in meat prices has gone down, meat imports have steadily increased. There is no question that the import volume is the larget single factor in the sagging effect on price levels in the cattle industry.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture in its May 1968 edition of the Livestock and Meat Situation said:

> Imports of red meat totaled 1,352 million pounds product weight in 1967. This was equivalent to 1,841 million pounds of carcass weight—7 percent above 1966 but 10 percent below the record volume of imports in 1963.

On page 23 of the same edition, the Department of Agriculture said:

> Imports of meat subject to restriction by quota totaled 895 million pounds (product weight) in 1967. This was about 9 percent larger than in 1966, but was below the quota level for the year.

The following tables will give a better idea of the steady increase of imports and the apparent standstill of our exports: