TABLE 1.—MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS—BEEF AND VEAL

VALUE OF IMPORTS AND EXPORTS IN UNITED STATES, 1965–67

[In millions of dollars]

	1965	1966	1967
Imports for consumption	241.7	353.9	403.9
Exports	22.6	17.8	20.2

TABLE 2.—U.S. IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF BEEF AND VEAL IN RELATION TO DOMESTIC PRODUCTION, 1965–67

[In millions of pounds]

	Domestic production	Exports	Imports
1965	19,719	53.9	941.8
1966	20,604	39.1	1,204.2
1967	20,977	42.2	1,327.7

TABLE 3.—PERCENTAGE OF U.S. PRODUCTION

	1965	1966	1967
Imports	4.8	5.8	6.3
Exports	.3	.2	.2

Note: Information in tables found in Department of Agriculture May 1968 edition of the "Livestock and Meat Situation," pp. 24 and 29.

The matter of meat imports fits within the category of a shortcoming in the applicable statutes in our international trade structure. In 1963, staff experts of the Department of Agriculture carried out an analytical study of the effect of imports on the United States price. The conclusion at that time was that for each increase in imports amounting to 180 million pounds of beef—carcass weight equivalent, including live cattle—the domestic price on choice steers would be knocked down about 30 cents a hundred. Any cutback in that volume resulting from a tighter application of quotas would have had an effect in proportion to the size of the cutback.

The present law, Public Law 88–842, outlining procedures for reviewing the meat import situation specifies conditions for proclaiming import quotas for certain meats, primarily fresh or frozen beef and veal. The import quota level is related to the level of domestic production of these meats. The law provides that if estimated imports of fresh, chilled, or frozen cattle meat and meat of goats and sheep other than lamb equal or exceed 110 percent of the adjusted base quota for that year, the President is required to invoke a quota on imports of these meats. The adjusted base quota for 1968 is 950.3 million pounds—product weight. The amount of estimated imports which would trigger its imposition is 110 percent of the adjusted base quota, or 1,045.3 million pounds.

The formula by which the quota is derived is discretionary and too liberal. It has not solved the problem of depressed farm prices and it does not sufficiently discourage imports.

The base quota for a year is derived from adjusting the base of 725.4 million pounds specified in the law—approximately the 1959–63