

Everyone has quotas. Everybody retaliates and already have retaliated. This thing has been discussed a long time but the truth of the matter is that the barriers are already up for American beef around the world and also for Australia beef except here.

I don't think they are going to find a market but I think that it is time for us to start protecting the country here that has had so much trouble.

In closing I want to say one thing. There have been some statements that the old Smoot-Hawley tariff caused a lot of our troubles in the thirties. I was a boy in 1929 and trying to get started in the cattle business and it wiped me out. It took everything and I started over at that point.

When they talk about the Smoot-Hawley legislation hurting things back in that period I can tell you that the world was a wreck already, and it was a disaster program trying to get out of a problem that had already been created. I can't see any point to worrying about that act when I know that we are approaching gradually the same type of economic situation American agriculture had in 1928.

We have gone year by year borrowing more money, prices going lower, until it is almost identical in 1968 with 1928.

Now, whether 1929 will roll around and 1930 I don't know, but a lot of people in our business think that the stage is set. We would hope to avoid it. We hope Congress moves and helps correct American agriculture's problem before we hit that time.

We would like the full statement to be included in the hearing record. I have tried to do this extemporaneously because I wanted to explain some points and I also would be delighted if I am subjected, or any of my colleagues are subjected, to questions.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. We thank you, Mr. House, and without objection your full statement will appear in the record at this point.

(Mr. House's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF BILL HOUSE, PRESIDENT, AMERICAN NATIONAL
CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

My name is Bill House, a rancher from Cedar Vale, Kansas. I am President of the American National Cattlemen's Association, headquartered in Denver, Colorado, and representing, since 1898, thousands of individual beef cattle producers, feeders and breeders and more than 150 associated state, regional or national livestock organizations.

We welcome this opportunity to discuss with the Committee the difficulties the vast beef cattle industry of the United States has had with excessive imports of meat as the industry strives valiantly to stabilize domestic production at levels acceptable to consumers and contributing to the economies of the communities, states and nation we serve.

BEEF PRODUCTION IMPORTANT TO ALL AMERICA

We think it essential that the Committee keep in mind the importance of the domestic beef cattle industry to the overall economy and further that domestic production can assist in correcting the recent deficit in the balance of trade. Because cows are so common and easily ignored in the passing scenery of Modern America, we often overlook that the sales of cattle and calves in recent years have topped \$10 billion. This makes it the largest single source of agricultural income, exceeding several of the other major, "basic" crops combined. The valuation of the nation's beef cattle herd, conservatively estimated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on January 1, 1968, at \$16 billion, is a substantial portion of our basic national production resource.