

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any questions of Mr. House? Mr. Ullman.

Mr. ULLMAN. Mr. House, you made a very articulate statement and we appreciate hearing your views. I would like to commend the Cattlemen's Association for its program of a voluntary cutback. I think that you have demonstrated that you are trying to get, on a voluntary basis, to the heart of your problem and I think you have been quite effective in doing it.

Mr. House, it is your position that Public Law 88-482 was a good, sound, basic law, is that correct?

Mr. HOUSE. That is correct. We have operated under it and we think that it is on the right road.

Mr. ULLMAN. It was my pleasure to work with Mr. Keogh, and Mr. Carrothers, and the others in the industry in accomplishing that law. It was, as you well know, a tough, hard battle. It was breaking new ground. The experience that you had is that it has been effective but now needs some modification, is that right?

Mr. HOUSE. That is correct. One modification we seek is to even out the flow so that we can plan our business more effectively. We find a small variation in our business affects us disastrously at given times and we have to be very careful in planning our business ahead for the long run and we would like to have shipments smoothed out.

You realize that both quarterly reports and holding the thing down so that no more than one-fourth of a year's supply can come in in any quarter and also getting rid of the 10-percent override would both help us plan our business and help our voluntary program no end because we could do a lot better planning in our business and try to meet the demands a lot better if we knew exactly what was going to come in under this law.

Mr. ULLMAN. Have you listed your recommendations pretty much in the order of priority as you see them? I notice your first point is the elimination of the override on quotas.

You think this is probably the most central part of your package?

Mr. HOUSE. It worries us because there is a 10-percent gap and we never know whether it is going to come or isn't going to come, and it has been used a time or two already and it keeps us upset all the time. The others are listed from pages 7 through 9.

Mr. ULLMAN. Yes, You have as the second a more realistic base period and you are eliminating 1963 from the base.

Mr. HOUSE. We would like to eliminate it because it was extraordinary.

Mr. ULLMAN. And then the quarterly quota provision. Then No. 4 would be including canned, cooked and cured meats and No. 5 would be military offshore purchases. Those are pretty much in order of priority as you see them?

Mr. HOUSE. Yes, I would say they were. There might be some opinion to the contrary but I would say basically that is correct, that they are in the order of what we need in order to properly plan our own business.

Mr. ULLMAN. Well, I just want to conclude by saying that I know a lot of ranchers personally in my area. I know the problems that they are having and I know that this is just one of a whole series of problems but it is one that keeps plaguing us year after year. You