

because the domestic cow and bull population is insufficient to fulfill the needs of manufacturers, imported lean, fresh frozen meats are essential to our economy.

Beef Consumption at All-Time High Level

Beef consumption in the United States has risen to an all-time high, with per capita consumption of domestic fed beef up to 71 pounds out of total 1967 beef supply of 106.1 pounds per capita. Of the 106.1 pounds, 100.4 pounds were attributable to domestic production. In 1966 the per capita supply of fed beef was only 66 pounds. Conversely, the total domestic supply of processing beef, including imports, declined from 16.2 pounds to 14.6 pounds per capita, a decrease of about 10% (Appendix II).

Clearly, then, the domestic cattle raiser and feeder should be in a better position to make profits unless this increased supply was brought about by other factors such as indiscriminate feeding practices. With total U.S. supplies of all beef and veal up to 21.8 billion pounds in 1967 (Appendix I) and per capita consumption of fed beef up to 71 pounds, while the total supply of processing beef declined, there is no reason for any further artificial restriction of the market through import quotas.

Prices Paid for All Grades of Beef Are Higher

The vast majority of importers and domestic users have long maintained that fresh frozen beef from abroad does not compete with United States products of higher grade. Imports do,