

however, compete directly with domestic cow and bull beef, generally classified as manufacturing grade meat.

Examination of the current price structure in the United States, by grade rather than origin, shows a clear pattern of increased potential prosperity for all involved. United States Department of Agriculture reports of average utility grade prices at Chicago (Appendix III) show that the market in which imports compete is extremely healthy. In 1954, during which period there were virtually no imports, the average price per hundredweight was \$11.46. In 1957, the year in which fresh frozen meat imports began to grow, prices rose to \$13.61 and continued to rise throughout the 60's to a 1967 average of \$17.52. During the first four months of 1968 the average price paid for utility grade live steers at Chicago was \$18.32 per hundredweight.

The old argument that all sales of red meat deprive U.S. cattlemen and feeders of sales of choice prime beef and diminish their ability to work profitably, is illusory and totally unsupported by fact. Average prices for choice steers have followed fairly steady upward patterns while per capita consumption has increased sharply.

Average prices for choice steers during the years Public Law 88-482 has been in effect ranged from \$23.12 to \$26.04 per hundredweight on an annual average. Monthly reports for this year show an average for the first four months up to \$27.34