In each year, including 1967, imports follow increasing demand during the peak season ending roughly in August or September. Thereafter, during the final months of the year, volume decreases substantially. This annual trend is matched by similar movements in domestic production (See Table 2). However, major fluctuations in domestic production and supplies within a given year occur more often. Comparing three full years under the import quota law, imports have been more predictable than domestic supplies.

Trends charted on Table 4 are purely the result of demand. Since imports are used in manufacturing hamburgers, hot dogs and other convenience foods, it is reasonable that demand is highest during the summer and fall months when vacations occur and outdoor eating is at its height.

It has been established that peaks and valleys exist in domestic supply, that the variations in imports are small compared to variations in total supply, and that import highs and lows are generally predictable. Another factor is most significant. More than 90% of all imported fresh frozen meat is sold to United States customers prior to date of shipment from the exporting country. The impact of two or three vessels arriving in the United States on one day, even if not originally scheduled to arrive simultaneously, is therefore minimal. The exact date of arrival is a meaningless statistic in terms of impact.

Profits in any industry, and especially in livestock raising and meat production, must be related to a sound market