

In our opinion, retaliation warnings by our executive officials are grossly overrated and are like ghosts in haunted houses * * * used only in an attempt to scare domestic agriculture and business into meekly following the course of basing trade policy on international relations instead of on sound business principles.

These and other circumstances are what prompted the National Livestock Feeders Association and others to seek more realistic quotas and restraints on certain meat products being imported by the United States. We believe that such reasonable protection under world trading conditions is absolutely vital for the economic well-being of the domestic livestock business.

Thus we wholeheartedly support the provisions contained in H.R. 9475 introduced in the House of Representatives, and of S. 1588 introduced in the U.S. Senate.

IMPORT PROTECTION AND IMPORT RESTRICTIONS EMPLOYED BY FOREIGN NATIONS

Reference has been made repeatedly to tariff and nontariff barriers which exist in many foreign countries, and are devices employed to restrict imports and even rule them out entirely. A summary of trade restrictions used by other countries against meats, meat animals, and meat products as of June 1968, is not available, but we do have accurate information as of January 1968.

In order to illustrate and support the arguments which have been made, we are providing the most recent data available in order to demonstrate clearly the distinct disadvantage facing the U.S. livestock industry in the foreign trade arena. The information follows, country by country, with the understanding there may be some changes which more current reports will reveal.⁶

In the statement, as you will note, we have summarized these restrictions and I will not enumerate them in the interest of saving time.

We would of course appreciate having them appear in the record and our statement appear in the record from this point on and we will merely make a few remarks about each section as it follows. (See p. 3273.)

However, as I mentioned, we have listed these import restrictions country by country. We listed the Economic European Community, the Argentine, Australia, Austria, Brazil, Chile, Greece, Ireland, Japan, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom.

Similar information on trading restrictions imposed by lesser trading Nations is available but it seems unnecessary to include all countries in this section. We believe the foregoing substantiates the points we are making. Most major trading Nations employ high tariffs, a variety of nontariff barriers, or a combination of restrictions to control imports of meat and meat products.

Yet we are being told the United States must not resort to any reasonable protection of a similar nature because we will severely damage world trade and invite extensive retaliation.

Then in the succeeding chapters of this presentation we present our arguments in favor of reasonable protection to the domestic industry

⁶ Source : Compiled by the NLFA from information supplied by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.