

and the necessity for modification of the existing statute, Public Law 88-482. Modifications sought do not amount to drastic changes and, we emphasize, access would still be provided into our domestic market for meat and meat products.

In these remaining sections we trace the history of imports prior to 1964 and through 1967. The information is supported by tables and charts that are attached to the statement.

We submit that the establishment and imposition of quotas offers the only practical means of necessary restrictions.

In addition to expanding our ample domestic supply of beef and veal, the value of products now being imported is relatively lower than the products of like quality produced in the United States, and here we have provided the information running back through 1967 and up to date, or practically up to date, in 1968, listing the value of imported beef as compared to the value of comparable domestically produced beef, and we find ranges in this difference that run as high as \$8 per hundredweight.

Furthermore, we do believe that we refute the argument that the quality of imported beef does not compete directly with beef prices. Then we have reviewed briefly those specific modifications in the present law which would be accomplished by H.R. 9475 and support the reasons for these modifications.

I see no reason to go through all of these modifications since the committee is well acquainted with them and the details as well as the provisions.

So in the closing section, Mr. Chairman, we call attention to some of the circumstances of domestic production which have prevailed and created problems for the industry, and then we explain what the industry is doing to alleviate these problems.

Finally, we point out how large volumes of imported meat products work directly against those industry efforts and accentuate the problems we are trying to correct. We are trying to work toward more regular production and feeding, both cattle and hogs, far more orderly marketing on the part of domestic producers, certain restraints in production, and particularly in the area of fed beef where we have conducted a very intensive campaign toward litter slaughter weights which hopefully will hold production of beef in check.

Volume and irregularity of imports do tend to work in conflict with these efforts and we have explained this in our final section of the statement. We believe the reasons and arguments that are contained in the statement that we have presented and are asking to be filed fully justify a definite change in the foreign trade policies of the United States, whereby domestic industry is accorded consideration at least similar to that enjoyed by industries in foreign nations.

We do feel definitely we have substantiated the need for modifying the present meat import quota law of 1964 and making changes that are vital to the well-being of our livestock growing and feeding businesses.

Again we are grateful for the opportunity to make this presentation. We respectfully hope that the committee and the Congress will honor the recommendations that have been made and will take favorable action as quickly as possible on the provisions contained in H.R.