

Mr. MAGDANZ. Thank you, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Kern. Mr. Kern, if you will identify yourself for our record we will be glad to recognize you, sir.

STATEMENT OF GEORGE KERN, MEAT TRADE INSTITUTE OF NEW YORK AND EASTERN MEAT PACKERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Mr. KERN. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is George W. Kern and I am president of George Kern, Inc., a New York meat processsing firm established in 1891. I have personally been in the meat processing business for 50 years. My company produces processed meat in excess of \$4 million per year of which beef accounts for about 25 percent of the volume.

I have been authorized to appear today on behalf of the Meat Trade Institute of New York City and the Eastern Meat Packers Association, Inc., with offices in Washington, D.C.

The Meat Trade Institute of New York is comprised of a membership that includes meat processors who account for the major portion of sausage produced in the metropolitan area of New York. The Eastern Meat Packers Association is composed of meat processors and sorters in the northeastern area of the United States and these two trade associations represent about 60 companies with approximately 6,000 to 7,000 employees.

My statement reflects the views of both of these organizations. We are opposed to the restriction of imported beef, particularly the processing type which comes to this country from bull and cow carcasses. It helps fill a deficiency which has been brought about in the past two decades by scientific and efficient animal husbandry.

In 1920 our dairy cow census was 21.4 million, in 1967, the year closed, 14.6 million, one-third less. This latter is the lowest number of dairy cows we have had in the United States in 48 years.

Due to artificial insemination I approximate our dairy bulls are far less in the same period. The supply of dairy cows and bulls in the past 20 years has averaged 2.9 billion pounds and has not increased.

In contrast, total table beef production since 1948 has increased 150 percent and represented in 1967, 91.1 pounds per capita. Imported processing beef that came into this country in 1967 was equivalent to 5.3 pounds per person. Domestic supply was 9.3 per person.

Incidentally, imported table beef in the years 1965, 1966, and 1967 was 0.4 or about 6½ ounces per capita annual consumption. Thus it would appear the American cattle raiser is well protected by existing law, sought and obtained.

Imported processing beef has come to this country since about 1958 and in my company we have found this beef to be good quality, runs 90 percent lean with high protein value. It is a valuable source for hamburger processors as well as sausage manufacturers. Sausage consumed annually has doubled in the United States in the past 20 years with per capita consumption going from 16.22 in 1947 to 24 pounds in 1967. It is generally conceded that more hamburgers are consumed today in America than frankfurters and importing processing beef is highly essential in both.

In the manufacturing of hamburgers the trimmings from table beef cuts are generally so fat they must be mixed with lean meat to come