

New York Wholesale Fish Dealers Association, Inc.
 Northeast Poultry Producers Council, Inc.
 The Olive Oil Association of America, Inc.
 Poultry & Egg National Board
 Provision Manufacturers Association
 Restaurant League of New York, Inc.
 United Food Board of Trade, Inc.
 United Fruit Buyers Association, Inc.
 National Longshoremen's Union
 Teamsters Union

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any questions? If not, we thank you, sir.

(The following letters and statements were received for the record by the committee:)

STATEMENT OF HON. CLARENCE J. BROWN, JR., A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS
 FROM THE STATE OF OHIO

Mr. Chairman: I would like to call the attention of the members of the House Ways and Means Committee to the plight of the farmer and the situation with which he is faced regarding the excess import of certain meat and meat products.

The farmer in this great Nation is a long way from enjoying the traditional American right of unencumbered participation in the free enterprise system. An example of inequitable treatment of farmers by the present Administration becomes apparent in the handling of import controls on meat and meat products.

For the first five months of 1968, meat imports subject to quota rose by 44 million pounds to 352 million pounds as compared to a first five months total for 1967 of 308 million pounds—a total increase of 14% this year over last.

Along with other members of the House, I have introduced legislation to revise the quota-control system on the importation of certain meat and meat products. Basically my proposal would establish new guidelines on the importation of meat and meat products. The quota would be based on the five-year period of 1958–1962 and would set the annual base at 585,500,000 pounds compared with the present base of 765,000,000. The quotas would be imposed quarterly instead of annually and would be established by law instead of by the Secretary of Agriculture. Provision is also made for the executive branch to impose quotas on the importation of other meat products such as canned and cured beef, fresh lamb and pork not already included in quotas under the present law. In addition, the bill stipulates that offshore purchases of meat by the Department of Defense for the use of our troops abroad or at home shall be charged against the quota applicable to such meat.

This measure has attracted wide support in both houses of Congress because it is a step in the direction of strengthening the meat producing sector of our economy.

At a time when the American farmer faces serious economic challenges the Meat Import Act of 1964 (Public Law 88-482) is entirely ineffective in giving any real relief for meat producers in this country.

I urge the members of your Committee, in the recommendations which you make as a result of your recent hearings on trade and tariff proposals, to place the problem of excess meat imports high on the agenda so that an equitable policy on the importation of meat and meat products may be established.

The economic strength of our Nation's agricultural industry could be at stake. Any analysis of the history of our Nation's economy and the great impact of the agricultural segment of that economy on the total economy will demonstrate graphically the influence the health of agriculture has on our entire Nation. While the numbers of people engaged in agriculture may have shrunk in recent years, the impact of agriculture on our economy is still great. We dare not let our entire economy be dragged down by collapse of our agriculture because of foreign imports.