

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, D.C., July 10, 1968.

HON. WILBUR D. MILLS,
Chairman, Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Department of State has received from the Australian Embassy a statement of the views of the Australian Meat Board concerning the United States market for meat. The Embassy has requested that the statement be transmitted to the Committee on Ways and Means for its consideration for possible inclusion in the record of the current hearings on tariff and trade proposals.

I am, therefore, pleased to forward three copies of the enclosed statement for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,

WILLIAM B. MACOMBER, Jr.,
Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations.

Enclosure:

STATEMENT BY THE AUSTRALIAN MEAT BOARD

(Statement submitted on behalf of Australian Meat Board by W. W. Stenning, North American Representative, Australian Meat Board, the Cunard Building, New York, N.Y.)

The Australian Meat Board

The Australian Meat Board is constituted under the Meat Industry Act 1964 and comprises five members representing livestock producers of Australia, two members representing meat packers and exporters, one representative of the Commonwealth Government and an independent Chairman.

Board finances are obtained from a levy on cattle, sheep and lands at point of slaughter. This revenue is mainly used for the development of markets both in Australia and overseas. Over recent years, the Board has allocated a considerable sum for the promotion of lamb and for consumer education in regard to meat generally in Australia, this being primarily aimed at increasing Australian meat consumption.

The functions of the Australian Meat Board

The various functions of the Australian Meat Board can be summarized as safeguarding the long-term interests of the Australian Meat Industry and to this end, it has constantly worked in conjunction with the Australian Government to ensure that Australian meat is marketed overseas in an orderly manner and in such a way as not to harm the interests of producers in importing countries.

The Board has representatives located in New York, London and Tokyo and is constantly seeking ways of stepping up meat exports to markets other than North America. In Europe and Asia, the Board has arranged a number of displays of Australian meat and has encouraged consumers in those areas to purchase greater quantities of Australian meat products. Australia has significantly increased its beef sales to Japan over recent years.

Although the Australian meat industry places considerable importance on its overseas outlets, most of our meat production is consumed on the domestic market. Over one half of our beef and veal is consumed in this country while the respective figures for mutton and lamb, are 60% and 93%.

Australia, nevertheless, depends on meat exports as a major source of its foreign exchange earnings, meat being the leading Australian export after wool and wheat.

Structure of Australian meat industry

The Australian livestock and meat industries in their operations are similar to those of U.S.A., being based on a private enterprise system. It is left to the individual livestock producer to decide what kind of stock to raise, when they are ready for market and where and to whom they will be sold. A similar position exists with meatworks, packing houses and meat trading companies.