RESPONSIBILITIES FOR SUPPLY ADJUSTMENTS

Cattlemen further realize that import restrictions, in and of themselves, will not provide the complete answer to the supply-price problems. They realize that that it is up to them to tighten their belts and make necessary adjustments. Under the voluntary self-discipline program of the American National Cattlemen's Association's Market Development Program much of the adjustment can be and is being made. But achieving this difficult task would be to no avail if the adjustments made by the domestic industry were nulified through failure to make commensurate adjustments in imports.

The American cattleman wants and deserves some assurance that his efforts will not have been in vain. Such assurance is possible through the enactment of H.R. 9475. We believe this legislation would help create the foundation for a healthy domestic cattle industry while still permitting our foreign friends generous access to our market. Therefore we respectfully urge the passage of this legislation.

STATEMENT OF WILL GILL, JR., PRESIDENT CALIFORNIA CATTLEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The California Cattlemen's Association, representing approximately 3,000 commercial cattlemen throughout California, would like to go on record in support of HR 9475, et al, Meat Import Legislation, currently being considered by the House Ways and Means Committee.

As a member of the American National Cattlemen's Association, we concur in the statement presented to your committee by their President, Mr. Bill House, and join in their urgent plea that greater consideration be given the domestic meat producer through some immediate changes in the 1964 meat import law, PL 88–482.

The beef cattle industry in this country is conducting a vigorous campaign to regulate itself through voluntary procedures so as to bring our beef supply more in line with a profitable demand. However, our efforts become meaningless when, under the current meat import law, foreign countries can dump large quantities of imported beef on our markets during critical domestic marketing periods. We need your help in the form of more realistic controls on foreign meat imports if we are to be successful in policing our own production so as to attain a stable and profitable market for beef.

The beef cattle industry contributes heavily to the economic well-being of this nation. Countless jobs are provided to those who supply and service its needs. It represents a substantial proportion of the local tax base in most of rural America. It has maintained and protected much of the open space which is becoming so important to our modern urban society.

It is in the best interest of this country and all its citizens that firm steps be taken to preserve this industry and the millions who depend upon it.

To this end, we support HR 9475, or any other meat import legislation which will accomplish the following basic objectives:

1. Eliminate the 10% "flex" or override which exists in the current law, and establish a fixed quota.
2. Establish a quarterly quota allocation so as to stabilize the flow of imported meat on a more uniform basis.
3. Revise the base period for arriving at import quotas so as to use a more realistic average of imports sent to this country prior to the 1964 meat import law.
4. Include canned, cooked or cured meat products in the over-all quota.
5. Require that offshore meat purchases made by our Armed Forces be included in the amounts considered toward the quota.

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this statement and hope it will be read in the record of the committee hearings.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D.C., June 20, 1968.

Hon. WILBUR D. MILLS,
Chairman, Ways and Means Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I am informed that the Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc., of Honolulu, is strongly interested in the adoption of your bill, H.R. 9475, relating to the imports of foreign meats.