

sharply from nearly a million pounds or 3% of the State market supply in 1954 to a staggering 17,000,000 pounds or almost 30% of the State market supply in 1967.

You can well imagine the stunning impact this increase has had on Hawaii's \$10 million dollar a year cattle industry. While Hawaiian cattlemen have strived untiringly to produce a quality beef product through grain feeding in feedlots, land, labor and other operational costs have spiraled to new heights. Foreign beef imports have an increasingly, devastating effect on our market and price structure. In other words, we cannot compete with an inferior quality beef produced under circumstances where production costs are vastly lower than ours and then have this product shipped in excessive quantities to Hawaii, the closest and most lucrative port to the Antipodes.

In 1964, Congress was sympathetic to the plight of its nation's cattlemen, and enacted the Meat Import Act of that year. At that time, we fought for the inclusion of a port of entry quota system and brought our problem to your attention. As you know, a quota system was adopted, which gave better consideration to port states and set trigger levels so high as to be ineffective.

Today, four years after the enactment of the law, foreign beef imports to our state have remained at the same staggering level they were at then. (See Table #2 of attachment). Needless to say, this law has not helped alleviate our situation at all.

When we were informed of the forthcoming hearings, cattlemen of this State held an emergency meeting to consider our stand in this matter. The attached resolution is a result of that meeting.

Herein we feel lies the solution of our problem as we see it. First, that a port of entry quota system be adopted as part of the Meat Import Act of 1964. Second, that oppressed ports be granted relief by reducing the total poundage received by these ports to one-half the average received over the last five years. This would mean that foreign beef imports would represent about 14% of our state market, or 7,962,000 pounds, carcass weight or one-half the average of the past five years. Third, that foreign meat packers be required to meet health and sanitation requirements at least equal to United States standards.

Under this situation, the detrimental effects these imports have on our price structure would be somewhat alleviated. This would also permit more mainland beef into our State because as you well know, we are unable to supply the total demands of our population. Increased imports from the Mainland would not affect us since our market price is based on the mainland market. A port quota system would also serve to prevent erratic and excessive shipments of an inferior quality beef to this State and would thereby alleviate our marketing problems.

We would like at this time to submit our proposals for your consideration and to solicit your support for our cause.

We are submitting copies of our resolution and letters to the President of the United States, the Secretary of Agriculture, all members of the House Ways and Means Committee and to the Chairman of the Hawaii State Department of Agriculture.

If we can provide any other information relative to this problem, please do not hesitate to call on us.

Thank you for your kind consideration and interest in this matter and for your fine efforts on our industry's behalf.

Sincerely,

ROBERT L. HIND, Jr.,
President, Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

RESOLUTION

Whereas, ports of entry continue to receive more than their equitable share of their total meat demands from foreign imports. One typical port state receives 30% of its state market supply from foreign sources, and

Whereas, other interior states are receiving a much lower percentage of their total production, while port states are feeling the devastating effects of these foreign imports, this high percentage having a detrimental effect on price structure, and

Whereas, Public Law 88-482 without a port of entry clause does not alleviate the situation in port states, and this same law sets trigger points so high as to make its enforcement impractical, and

Whereas, foreign packers are not required to meet stringent sanitation and health standards imposed on United States packers,