As the industry deals with its problems within the United States, it needs help beyond the borders of the country, for with the volume of beef now being imported, it can be safely said that as far as the American consumer is concerned, the cattle business is now global in nature. Effective beef import legislation is the only manner in which the American cattlemen can cope with foreign production! According to the figures of the U.S.D.A., the volume of beef imports during the months of July through November, 1967, were equal to or above 6.7% of the domestic production. The present law sets beef import ceilings at 6.7% of our production in the United States. During this same period the A.N.C.A. and its affiliated state associations were expounding a program of keeping the U.S. beef herd population stable and for feeders to reduce the total market tonnage by reducing the slaughter weights of cattle. During this same period imports ran as high as 7.5% of domestic production during the month of September. U.S. cattle prices became depressed and many ranchers and feeders lost money. With depressed prices on cows as a result of the imports, many ranchers failed to heed the advice of their industry leaders. Many cows that should have been culled from the nation's beef herd were retained in production. These critters average about 1,000 pounds in weight and with a market of 12 or 13 cents per pound they had a market value of about $125. Many cows that should have gone to market were pregnancy tested, and if found with calf, were retained in production. After all, in a few short months the producing unit would come forth with another calf worth nearly as much as the factory. So the rancher held his cows. And we increased production and eventually this will reflect in higher tonnage. Under the law of supply and demand, this will mean depressed prices for all beef in a time of ever rising prices and a greater than ever cost-price squeeze. A quarterly quota for beef imports with "use it or lose it" provisions would add stability to the beef industry and level out the supply of imported manufacturing beef. It would greatly enhance the industry's own self-help program of management and would better insure a stable supply of beef for tomorrow's American consumer.

Through the free enterprise system and without subsidy or bounty, the American cattle industry is providing its consuming public more high quality product at the present time than any people has ever received in the history of man! This is a marvelous record. By their consumption of this superior product, the American public has voted for a continuing supply of this fine source of its daily diet.

The people producing this product have suffered many economic hardships in coming forth with this supply. It has not been easy. Even today, the industry has its own designed and implemented program to help itself. As we go through a period of changing times, ever increasing inflation and a continuing demand upon our state and national governments for public monies to alleviate various social and economic ills, the cattle industry asks only for some assistance through today's consideration of HR 9475 and approval of its intent by Congress.

The people in the cattle industry are not rioting in the streets! There is a strong objection to the continued expansion of the beef industry in alien lands through the export of private and public American caiptal funds, an expansion designed to exploit lower labor and production costs in foreign countries to create a commodity for the American market. In this industry, we can not in all fairness be asked to meet the rising prices of our inflation and tax burdens and still be expected to withstand the impact of this alien competition. The approval of HR 9475 would do two important things for the American cattle industry and the American consumer of today and the future. First, the adoption of this bill would establish a workable and uniform level of beef imports for industry stability. Second, it would amount to Congressional endrosement of the industry's own program to solve its problems. Since a requirement to make adjustments in the imports of beef and to amend the 1964 legislation is a part of the industry's own guidance program to American cattle producers, Congressional approval would amount to an endorsement of the program and greatly encourage the livestock man to do his part and whole heartedly adopt the A.N.C.A. program.

The American livestock producer plays a key role in our national economy. He is producing a valuable commodity, one of life's necessities. He is also a consumer of the goods produced by American industry. He has the right to expect some reasonable stability in his chosen way of life that will allow him to earn a