The tendency is to expand in order to survive in face of increasing costs in all directions—taxes, interest, labor, machinery, living, etc., and this is coming at a time when the cattle industry is working hard to bring about a cut-back in production in order to bring stability to a presently unhealthy business.

To allow ever increasing imports in the face of an attempt at self control by the industry is to force defeat of any effective method of adjusting supply to demand at a fair price to both producer and consumer.

This bending over backwards to give so-called protection to the consumer has certainly been overplayed and has gone far enough. Such political tactics are unrealistic and a disservice to the American people. That a healthy, sound livestock industry in our country is vital, cannot be disputed. If the country is forced out of the beef producing business because of inability to compete with foreign producers, *then* you could see $2.00 per lb. hamburger and $4.00 per lb. steak in the meat counter.

We might point out one additional factor that perhaps has not been considered before and that is the terrific fire hazard that could be created by unused ranges and grazing lands.

To sum up a few basic facts:

1. The beef industry is not asking for higher protective tariffs, nor for an embargo or ban against foreign meat. We are asking for a chance to stabilize our own industry by legislation to prevent the erratic influx of beef to our shores. This involves reasonable quotas on a quarterly basis. These foreign imports should be held to an exact known figure which would aid in their own production projections and allow our industry to do the same. The season or months when we have light supplies of manufacturing beef is well known to the industry. These quotas should be geared to those months.
2. Another aspect that has been pointed out many times during these past three and one-half years is that the base established by import levels during 1959 to 1963 was unrealistic. The average established during 1958 to 1962, if used as a base, would be a little less generous but one that the industry could better live with.
3. Canned, cooked and cured meats must be included in future quotas.
4. Foreign meat purchased by the Armed Forces abroad must be included in the quotas, as they are replacing domestic purchases.
5. The American people must not become dependent on foreign production for one of the basic necessities in the diet of the American people. The consequences of such dependency need no elaboration.

This legislation involved in HR 9475 is vital to the survival of the cattle industry in the United States, and we urgently request your immediate consideration of the problems raised by the pending legislation.

Very truly yours,

C. A. Courtright, *President.*

Washington Cattlemen's Association, Inc.,
Ellensburg, Wash., June 14, 1968.

Re meat import legislation, H.R. 9475.

Clerk, Ways and Means Committee,
House of Representatives,
Washington, D.C.

Gentlemen: The Washington Cattlemen's Association goes on record as being in complete agreement with the following statement submitted by the Washington Cattle Feeders Association and strongly urges its consideration:

"We strongly urge that the beef imports law passed in 1964 be strengthened to the extent that it may become effective in accomplishing the purpose for which it was intended. The cattle industry accepted PL 88482 as better than nothing, or as a step in the right direction. The ineffectiveness of the law in its present form has been demonstrated to the industry month after month for the last three and one-half years.

On the West Coast and in the Northwest, we are particularly vulnerable to an accelerated influx of foreign beef. You have the facts and figures supplied by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and these figures reveal the alarming story, but not all of it.