

To: Chairman WILBUR D. MILLS (Committee on Ways and Means)
 Statement of: George L. Hays, Mission Creek Angus Ranch, Copeland, Idaho
 Subject: Meat Imports and the Impact on the Small Cattle Producer

In 1962 Congress surrendered its power to control imports to the Executive Department through the G.A.T.T. Against repeated efforts by cattle people and their organizations, Congress went right ahead with the recommendations of the U.S.D.A. and passed a deplorable bill that does allow 970 million pounds of boneless beef into the U.S. yearly. In 1965 the Commerce Department attacked the export of hides, citing an impending shortage of leather, this caused an immediate loss of 4 to 5 cents per pound on livestock. This restriction was not removed until the U.S. hide market had been lost and over production piled up in the U.S. to further drop cattle market prices.

The U.S.D.A. has continuously depressed prices with gilt-edged talk about how good things are down on the farm, and with their desire to supply cheap food to the consumer.

It would take a cut back of at least 50% in imports to restore prices that would be favorable to the family farm or ranch. And Congress does not seem to understand the plight; it is unfortunate that the old cow-man cannot strap on his six shooter and head for Washington, en masse, since Congress now-a-days understands militancy.

Unless Congress is willing to assume the responsibility as given to it by the Constitution in regard to commerce, instead of giving it to the State Department, the USDA, and the Commerce Department—we, the people are getting what we deserve in electing today's Congressmen.

GEORGE L. HAYS.

MOIOLA BROS.,
 Brawley, Calif., May 22, 1968.

Re: H.R. 9475.

Hon. WILBUR D. MILLS, *Chairman*
 Hon. JAMES B. UTT, *Member*
 Hon. CECIL R. KING, *Member*,
House Ways and Means Committee, Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: We would like to present for your consideration the following reasons why the Meat Import Act of 1964 should be amended.

1. The importance of the Cattle Industry to the American economy; we live here and help support our local, state and federal governments through the taxes we pay; we add to the economy through the purchase of supplies and materials produced by American businesses; we employ other Americans, who, in turn, spend their wages locally and also pay taxes. The people who work for us are not taking part in demonstrations and poverty marches; they are not on welfare or any other form of government supported programs.

2. America is the greatest food producing country in the world. However, it is not inconceivable that Americans could one day wake up hungry if enough farmers and cattlemen give up the fight to compete with foreign imports. The American food producers are constantly, at great expense, seeking better methods for producing the finest food for our consumers' tables; we must conform to government regulations and pass government inspections designed to protect the consumers food supply. We wonder who supervises the production and packing of meats in foreign countries? How strict are their laws? Who sees that their laws, if any, are enforced? Are the American consumers protected from the slaughter and shipping of diseased animals?

3. Meat imports for the month of January, 1968 alone totaled 125.5 million pounds. At this rate, in one year 1,506,000,000 pounds are imported. Transfer these pounds to dollars and you can readily see what an impact this lost business has on the domestic cattle industry in lost profits, lost wages and lost taxes. What do we get in return from the foreign country? Is it worth it?

4. Our government is concerned about the Balance of Payments deficit; monies paid to the American cattlemen for their meat is in turn paid out to other Americans for American products, to employees who live in America; this money stays here and circulates and regenerates more business. Is this not important?

We urge you to give first consideration to the domestic meat producer, his employees, and to our own country in all hearings with respect to the proposed amendment of the meat import act.

Very truly yours,

LAWRENCE MOIOLA, *Partner.*