

In the United States, manufacturing beef is produced almost entirely from cows, and the domestic production has become a by-product of the dairy industry. The prospects are for a continued decline in percentage of U.S. production of cow beef.

Domestic production of cow beef in 1966 was only 3.9 billion pounds, in comparison to a production of some 4.5 billion pounds in 1956.²

Dr. DeGraff, President of the American Meat Institute, has said:

"In 1955 when our population was 165 million persons, we had a domestic output of 4.5 billion pounds of cow and bull beef (i.e., manufacturing beef). This amounted to 27 pounds per capita. In 1963, with a population of 190 million people, we had a domestic production of 2.8 billion pounds of cow and bull meat—or 14 pounds per capita—almost a 50 percent decline on a per capita basis. Even with 1.5 billion pounds of manufacturing-type beef imported last year, we still have an aggregate supply (domestic plus imported) of .5 billion pounds less than the aggregate in 1955—and 15 percent less per person of our population . . ."³

B. Domestic processors depend upon our products for reprocessing

These products are not produced commercially in the U.S. and are essential to U.S. processors. Canned corned beef is a highly nutritious, versatile and economical product and a standard ready-to-eat favorite particularly among the lower-income families, whether for consumption at home, or at work in the factory or field.

Domestic processors used canned corned beef as a basic ingredient in the manufacture of canned corned beef hash, long a favorite dish of Americans, children and adults alike. Corned beef hash is an important item in the menus of schools, restaurants, hospitals and many other charitable institutions. Cooked frozen beef for many years has been used in the domestic production of soups and has in the past four years become increasingly important to the growing frozen food industry in products such as packaged dinners and pies.

United States manufacturers of canned corned beef hash, frozen beef dinners, beef pies and other similar products have become dependent upon the South American beef imports because this type of beef is not available in sufficient quantities from the domestic industry. To impose quotas on these imports would simply deny American consumers and food processors basic commodities upon which they depend. Any such quota would cause market disruption and lead to underemployment of workers in these domestic industries and tend to cause economic waste in American capital investment, both in the United States and South America, in the productive facilities engaged in the manufacture of these basic commodities.

C. The imports of canned, preserved and cooked frozen beef do not justify quotas

Total imports of the subject products have always been small. They have been substantially less than one percent (1%) of the total U.S. production of beef and veal over the last seven years, as shown on the following page.

The imposition of quotas on any product is a drastic economic measure which should be enacted, if at all, only when the quantity of imports has reached such an amount that there is an unquestionable need for this drastic remedy. President Johnson has said: "A nation restricts imports only at the risk of its own exports . . . restriction begets restriction."⁴

We submit that quotas on our products are not justified. In fact, even the National Livestock Feeders Association finds that there is no present justification for quotas on cooked, cured and canned products, and they specifically refrain from requesting them. "Pending legislation . . . does not establish, and we do not suggest, specific quotas for . . . cooked, cured and canned products." At most, this Association suggests discretionary quotas ". . . if . . . (they are) necessary to prevent unwarranted increases . . ."⁵ This amounts to a request for legislation on the basis of speculative estimates of the future.

It has been argued that discretionary quotas on canned, cooked and cured beef imports, are necessary to prevent circumvention of other quotas by canning or otherwise utilizing "loopholes." We submit that the traditional imports of canned, cooked frozen and preserved beef from South America do not and cannot enter through "loopholes." These products are the only meat imports allowed from South America and have been sold in the United States for more than forty years.

² Ibid., at p. 35.

³ Dr. DeGraff, speech to National Livestock Conference, March 15, 1964.

⁴ *The Washington Post*, May 28, 1968.

⁵ Statement of National Livestock Feeders Association, June 4, 1968, p. 20.