Mr. BURKE. Are there any questions, if not, then thank you Mr. Bates, for sharing your views with us.

The next witness is from Washington, the Honorable Thomas M. Pelly. Mr. Pelly, we appreciate your being with us and you are recognized, sir.

STATEMENT OF HON. THOMAS M. PELLY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

Mr. PELLY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the opportunity to appear in response to your invitation to testify on the general subject of tariff and trade. My statement today has special reference to proposals relative to imposition of quotas. In this connection, I desire to express my views in favor of my bill, H.R. 17242, which is identical to H.R. 16936, introduced by a distinguished member of this committee, Mr. Herlong. And, I believe other House Members are sponsoring this legislation. These bills would limit import expansion of foreign products under certain conditions to protect our domestic producers.

My testimony will be directed especially to the problems and the interests of the American fishing industry, an important segment of which is located in my congressional district, as well as throughout the Puget Sound region and the coastal areas of the State of Washington. I believe the enactment of this legislation could be extremely helpful to the domestic fishing industry, employment in which includes 135,636 fishermen and 88,748 shore workers.

That the economic plight of the fishing industry needs some form of protection is well demonstrated by the statistics on the obsolescence and age of the U.S. fishing fleet. In this connection, the Bureau of Fisheries recently published these facts:

> The U.S. fishing fleet consists of 82,127 vessels of various kinds which average 20 years of age. One-half of the vessels are between 16 and 45 years. There are 250 vessels which are more than 55 years old, and the average age has increased almost a year every 2 years over the past 10 years.

The reason for this depletion and that fishermen cannot afford to replace their aged vessels to a large degree is the flood of foreign imports. The market is flooded with low-cost and often inferior fish products.

Just one example of the adverse effect on the domestic market is the sale of so-called Greenland halibut which is really turbot containing a higher fat and lower protein content than true halibut. The housewife in the marketplace buys this imported product, thinking it is true halibut, and the price differential is such the American halibut fisherman is lucky if he makes expenses.

Actually, what has been going on, as far as fish are concerned, is that world production of fish has increased from 40 billion pounds in 1948 to 125 billion pounds in 1967. Meanwhile, our domestic production has decreased to 4 billion pounds, the lowest since 1943.

While our domestic production has been decreasing, our consumption of fish is at an all-time high. In 1948, we produced 80 percent of our domestic needs; now we only produce 29 percent and the balance of 71 percent consists of ever-increasing imports from some 116 nations.