

I would not propose to suggest tariffs or import quotas, but would leave such decisions to the usual fine judgment of your committee. Let me urge that the least we can do is enable one of the oldest domestic industries to continue to operate at a level that would insure the continuing job opportunities of those who are dependent upon this industry for their livelihood.

I will appreciate your consideration and request that these views be made a part of your hearing record.

Mr. BURKE. Thank you, Mr. Henderson, for bringing to us your thoughts. Are there any questions?

Is Congressman Keith here?

Congressman Keith.

STATEMENT OF HON. HASTINGS KEITH, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MASSACHUSETTS

Mr. BURKE. You may identify yourself for the record, Congressman.

Mr. KEITH. I appreciate the great interest which you, Mr. Chairman, have shown in the problems of foreign competition, particularly in the fields of shipbuilding and shoe manufacturing. I know, too, that you have been sympathetic to the problems of the fishing industry, which is the subject of our present discussion. I am grateful for your courtesy in permitting me to testify and in hearing two of the outstanding authorities in this beleaguered industry.

I have New Bedford in my constituency, one of the outstanding sea-ports of the world. It, along with the other traditional fishing ports of Gloucester and Boston is faced with some very serious difficulties. They have truly come on hard times, and it is a matter of extraordinary significance to my district, and I believe it is of extraordinary importance to our Nation that we find some way to alleviate the difficulties that are facing our Nation in its efforts to sow and reap a good harvest from the sea.

We have extraordinarily good port facilities. We have fishermen who are very eager to put to the sea in their vessels.

We have a nation and a world that is crying for fish protein in many different forms, but we are being very hard pressed by imports that make it almost impossible for our fishermen, vessel owners, and processors to eke a living out of this life that has always been a very great contributor to the economy of the coastal communities.

I have with me today two men who are extraordinarily well qualified to speak in person and dramatic terms about the nature of this problem, and perhaps help us in our efforts to find a solution.

James Ackert is the president of the Atlantic Fishermen's Union in Boston, and Howard Nickerson is the executive director of the Seafood Dealers Association in the city of New Bedford. Both of these men have been to sea, and both of them have been familiar with the problems of management and of labor from the catching of the fish until it hits the consumer.

I am sure that they can enlighten this committee as to the problems that face this industry and this Nation.

I would appreciate it very much if you would allow me to present these two gentlemen, James Ackert and Howard Nickerson.