Mr. BURKE. If Mr. Nickerson wishes to come up here, he can sit at the table, here.

Mr. NICKERSON. I would like to follow Mr. Ackert, if you please, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. BURKE. Will you please identify yourself for the record, Mr. Ackert?

I know you very well, and you are very well known up in New England for the great work that you have done.

Mr. ACKERT. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, my name is James D. Ackert, president of the Atlantic Fishermen's Union of Boston, Gloucester, and New York.

Today I am speaking in behalf of the Domestic Producers Association of New England, whose listed membership has been filed with Mr. Martin, chief counsel for this committee.

We are speaking in favor of the passage of H.R. 16936, Fair International Trade Act of 1968, as we do not believe the U.S. Government can sacrifice domestic industries by neglecting the impact of increased imports.

The domestic groundfish industry of the United States requested an investigation by the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, on the effect of imported fresh and frozen groundfish upon the domestic groundfish industry under Public Law 1024, section 9(b) and also under U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, title 16, paragraph 742 H, section (b). The attached tables from the preliminary report is included as attachment to my statement. Dr. Gale H. Lyon of the Bureau of Commercial fisheries assured me that the completed report would be available for this committee within a few weeks. We believe the investigation speaks for itself, and in its final analysis shows that the domestic groundfish industry is being forced out of business by the impact of increased imports. In 1957 we produced 67 percent of our needs, and imported 33 percent. The figures now have been completely reversed—in 1967 the United States produced 22 percent and imported 78 percent, as stated in table 1 of the report of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, titled "Groundfish Supply, Utilization, and Percent Imports Are of Consumption, United States, 1960–67."

The U.S. Government has stated on numerous occasions that to feed future generations we will have to go to the sea for more food. How can this happen, when we see an overage fleet of fishing vessels and a steady downgrade of wages for our fishermen, caused by increased imports? Please note in table 8 the hourly wage rate of fishermen as compared with other industries and occupations shows that we are below standard. The fishermen average 3 hours for every 2 hours worked by nonsupervisory personnel in other industries. This is only for the large trawlers out of Boston. If we take the smaller trawlers, who have no watch (6 hours on and 6 hours off), the relationship of hours worked would be much greater. Also, there are no paid vacations or sick leave for fishermen, as there are in other industries. We are sure that when this committee has the opportunity to review this excellent report of the investigation by the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries that they will see the importance of a ceiling on fishery imports into the United States.