

60-percent increase over the total, the record total of the same period in 1967.

We expect this upward trend to continue during the rest of the year.

Our Canadian friends have become competitors instead of customers. In 1967 we sold 755,000 pounds of honey to Canada during the first 4 months, but during this same period in 1968, the Canadians sold us 722,000 pounds.

This reflected a terrific drop in the Canadian honey prices, brought on by a loss of exports to Europe. Canadian honey exports in 1966 amounted to 7.9 million pounds, but in 1967 this was reduced to 3.1 million pounds.

Official figures for honey imports from Canada for the month of May are not available, but we understand that 2 million pounds were imported from Canada in one deal.

It is our understanding that all Canadian honey meets table-grade requirements.

World honey production has been increasing. Red China has proven to be a formidable competitor in Germany and Japan and other buyers of U.S. honey. Red China's exports of honey have increased eightfold in a few years.

To make matters worse, our honey exports for the first 4 months of this year amounted to 2,194,000 pounds, which is 63 percent down for the same period in 1967. We expect this downward trend to continue.

Our industry is in deep trouble. Imports are cheapening our prices, aggravating our price-support program, and generally demoralizing a proud industry.

We must continue to emphasize the importance of a thriving domestic beekeeping industry in this country.

Transport of pollen by honey bees from Florida is so essential to production that beekeeping must be carried on to maintain agriculture.

We must point out that heavy importations of honey will surely harm the seed and fruit production of more than 70 crops.

We strongly urge the committee to act favorably on our Honey Import Act, House Resolution 10677.

Mr. Chairman, this concludes my statement.

(Mr. Gibson's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF GLENN GIBSON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, THE AMERICAN BEEKEEPING FEDERATION

My name is Glenn Gibson, Executive Secretary, The American Beekeeping Federation, a nationwide farm organization with membership from all elements of the beekeeping industry. These include beekeepers who operate from 100 or less to many thousands of colonies. Our membership also includes bee research workers, bee supply manufacturers, honey packers, queen breeders, and package bee shippers. The main function of the Federation is to promote the well being of the beekeeping industry.

HONEY BEE POLLINATION—A VITAL AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

The honeybee is our only source of honey and beeswax. It produces more than 250 million pounds of honey and about 5 million pounds of wax annually in the United States. However, these are merely by-products of the honeybee. Its principal role is in the pollination of over 70 important crops. If it were not