Mr. WILLSON. As president of R. B. Willson Co., Inc., of New York, a company which is perhaps the largest exporter of American honey, as well as the largest importer of honey in the United States. I am grateful for the privilege of testifying in opposition to H.R. 10677 and similar bills with the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives. I request that my company's statement be made a part of the official record of the hearings on increased tariffs and import quota restrictions on honey.

I have long been associated with the American honey industry, have twice been president of the National Honey Packers and Dealers Association, twice chairman of the Honey Industry Council of America, and am currently and have been for about 10 years chairman of the council's research committee, to which is entrusted the self-raised sums for our own private research.

I hold a degree in science from Cornell University.

H.R. 10677 and 12 similar bills have two key features. These bills would raise the tariff on imported honey from its present 1 cent per pound to 3 cents per pound, and they also would establish import quotas on honey brought into the United States, based on the years 1961 through 1964, and decreased or increased by the same percentage of consumption of honey during the years 1961 through 1964.

As a large American exporter and importer of honey, it is our considered judgment that this legislation would be detrimental to our Nation and harmful to the two friendly countries who export honey to the United States. In brief, this bill is aimed solely at Mexico and Argentina, the two foreign lands which export about 95 percent of honey that comes into our country.

Let us examine the real situation regarding honey imports.

U.S. honey production for the years 1963 through 1967 averaged 269 million pounds per year. All U.S. statistics quoted in this paper are U.S. Government published figures. Our exports during that period averaged 14,796,255 pounds per year. Our imports of honey during the same period averaged 9,443,487 pounds per year, 5,362,786 pounds less per year than our exports, and our average annual imports of honey were only 3.5 percent of our average annual production. This includes the heavy imports of over 16 million pounds in 1967. However, in 1968, Argentina had an almost complete crop failure, so we can estimate 1968 imports to be less than the 5-year average.

But suppose someone insists that this tiny percent of imports does depress prices at home. The honey from Mexico, our largest supplier of imported honey year in and year out, is used solely for industrial purposes in our country, most of it entering the United States along our Atlantic seaboard, lesser quantities through the Port of New Orleans, but all of it well removed from our major sources of honey production. None of it, to the best of our knowledge, is used for packing honey in jars that one finds on the shelves of our grocery stores and supermarkets.

But some honey producer may say it is not that industrial honey that bothers us—it's honey from Argentina. Let us examine this argument. Our average annual imports of honey from Argentina, all of which is table quality, for the 5-year period 1963 through 1967 was just about 3½ millions pounds, or less than 1½ percent of our production of honey in the United States. This is a tiny percentage of honey. Surely