this amount of imports cannot be considered a menace to the welfare of the American honey industry.

But suppose the argument is made that even though these quantities of imports are small, they nevertheless have a depressing effect on our market and thus cause distress to U.S. honey producers. Let us therefore put this to still another test.

In this land of ours, honey, like the basic crops, cotton, corn, and wheat, is under mandatory price support. Honey, a minor agricultural crop, is supported to encourage the keeping of an abundance of honeybees that will insure the pollination of more than 100 important fruit and seed crops valued at $1 billion annually by the USDA in their publication, "Beekeeping in the United States," Agriculture Handbook No. 335. Wherever a greater concentration of bees is needed over what is normally present in the United States, beekeepers are paid a fee to move their bees into the orchard or melon farms or alfalfa fields, and thus get an added income from their beekeeping operations.

And Government price support levels are now and for several years have been above world market price levels. And, like cotton, corn, and wheat, honey is a world commodity.

Were there distressed honey about our country, were there large quantities of honey for which there was no market at good prices, our producers would have no major worry, because all they would have to do is turn that honey over to the Federal Government at support prices. But is there in fact a large quantity of honey being turned over to the Federal Government? Published figures of the U.S. Department of Agriculture show the quantities of honey taken in by our Government through the crop years 1962–66, average 1,715,000 pounds, or less than two-thirds of 1 percent of our national production. 1967 figures have not as yet been published. Once again, we are dealing with trivial quantities of honey that cannot conceivably be the cause of any possible distress to the American honey producer.

A final aspect of this proposed legislation that needs examination is what would its effect be on our international relations? As pointed out, this means Mexico and Argentina—two friendly neighbors in Latin America.

This request for an unprecedented quota comes when we are in the era of the Kennedy Round in international negotiations for trade. This is the era of breaking down trade barriers, not putting them up higher than ever before.

In Yucatan, from whence comes most of our Mexican imports, honey production 20 years ago was a mere 300,000 pounds. Today, the nectar-rich jungles of that land are yielding 30 million pounds. The gathering of this great natural product has been accomplished by the Yucatan people 100 percent with their own resources, with not 1 cent of point IV or Alliance for Progress aid. For the first time in their existence, the poor and almost penniless rural people of Yucatan have a cash crop.

Are we going to shut the door on these people—our next-door neighbors, who have with their own intelligence and industriousness, turned this natural resource of their jungles into so much self-help—so much improved living?

Mexico has little to export to us except her agricultural products. According to the statistical abstract issued by the U.S. Department of