

Commerce, U.S. exports to Mexico in the 3-year period 1964-1965-1966, averaged \$1,125 million per year. U.S. imports from Mexico, on the other hand, averaged, during the same period \$677 million per year, leaving a balance of trade in favor of the United States of \$448 million per year.

Even more striking is the picture with Argentina. Our trade with that country is only about one-quarter what it is with Mexico, but the balance of trade for 7 years, 1960 through 1966, totaled over \$1,250 million in our favor. And here, also, the Argentines can ship practically 100-percent agricultural products only, such as meat, skins, fruits, and honey.

Should we not ask ourselves: is it proper, is it considerate, is it fair, to place a quota and treble the duty on these honey imports that do not really hurt us, especially with countries like Mexico and Argentina, with whom we enjoy over a half billion dollars a year balance of trade in our favor? At the present state of our balance of payments, we cannot afford to jeopardize this, or any other trade that gives us a favorable balance. To pass such legislation would be to invite retaliation and bring on once again the disastrous blows to our foreign trade that followed the last protectionist tariffs of Smoot-Hawley in 1929-1930.

The answer to this whole matter is self-evident. There is no distressed situation with the honey producers in the United States, and our friendly neighbors, from whom we buy and import small quantities of honey, but with whom we enjoy a highly profitable balance of trade, need our encouragement, not penalizing quota and tariff legislation.

I respectfully request, Mr. Chairman, that the commodity honey be eliminated from consideration in the matter of restrictive quotas, and that the tariff on honey not be increased, and that H.R. 10677 not be approved by this committee.

Mr. BURKE. Thank you, Mr. Willson.

Are there any questions?

Mr. CURTIS. Just for the record, whom do we export honey to?

Mr. WILLSON. Our primary customer is Germany. We also export to France, Italy, Belgium, and Holland. We export lesser quantities to the Scandinavian countries.

Mr. CURTIS. It is mostly to Western Europe?

Mr. WILLSON. It is mostly to Western Europe, yes, sir.

Mr. BURKE. Mr. Betts?

Mr. BETTS. Mr. Willson, you said that these imports were not the cause of the distress of the honey industry. Would you tell us what the cause of the distress is?

Mr. WILLSON. I think, sir, there is a claim to distress, but actually, when the U.S. Government offers price support, so that a man, when he has a crop of honey to produce, can go to his local CCC and get cash for his honey at prices that today are above world market prices, I don't think that there is any distress.

Mr. BETTS. So you don't think there is any cause for the bee industry or the honey industry to ask for help at this time. Is that correct?

Mr. WILLSON. I don't think that the honey industry can make a valid claim that there is distress.