

Mr. BETTS. Well, I just wanted to comment.

I respect your judgment, and have been interested in what you had to say, but frankly, I have always been interested in how the small businessman fares in international trade.

You come in here claiming you are the largest producer of honey in the country, and I respect you for attaining that position, but I also think that it is up to the committee to see that the small honey industries are not injured, too, and I always find it a little difficult to rationalize trade balances by saying that we should protect the poor peasants of Yucatan at the expense of the honey industry of this country.

I find it difficult to follow that argument.

Mr. WILLSON. Did you interpret my remarks, sir, as saying that I am a large producer? I am not a producer, sir. I am a merchant who deals in honey as a bulk commodity, and I am an importer and exporter, as well as being a dealer in American-produced honey, which I distribute to bottlers and manufacturers, bakers, and whatnot.

Mr. BETTS. You don't represent the producers, at all?

Mr. WILLSON. I am not a producer of honey, although when I was a young man, I was a producer of honey.

Mr. BYRNES. Mr. Chairman.

What is the Government support price for honey?

Mr. WILLSON. The support prices today?

Mr. BYRNES. Yes.

Mr. WILLSON. I can read them to you from my notebook, if you would like to hear them.

There are two sets of prices based on the Eastern part of the United States out to just west of the Mississippi River, and then to the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Coast, based on grade: 13.4 for white honey in the East; for extra light amber honey, 12.4; for light amber, 11.4; for other table honey, 9.4; and non-table honey, 9.4.

Now, in the Western area, it is reduced by four-tenths of a cent per pound: 13, 12, 11, 9, and 9.

Mr. BYRNES. According to a report I had, that is considerably below the price of honey in recent years. Is that true?

The report I had relates to the price of the lighter extracted domestic bulk honey, which is what we are talking about, isn't it?

Mr. WILLSON. No. With regard to imports, sir, we are talking about honey that comes from Argentina, which is white honey, that competes with our table brands.

Mr. BYRNES. That is what I am talking about.

Mr. WILLSON. The honey from Mexico competes only with our dark honey that is used for industrial purposes.

Mr. BYRNES. The prices you are giving are the light honey?

Mr. WILLSON. The price of 13.4 is for white honey.

Mr. BYRNES. Oh.

Mr. WILLSON. Then when you get down to light amber honey, here in the East the price is 11.4, 2 cents less than that.

Mr. BYRNES. What is the cheaper honey? You had some prices there that were 8 cents and 9 cents.

Mr. WILLSON. The nontable honey is possibly two or three percent of our American honey production.

Mr. BYRNES. I am asking you about the prices that you quoted. You had some there that you quoted around 9 cents. What kind of honey is that?