

The next witness is Mr. Robert Ward.

Mr. ULLMAN. Mr. Ward, I am particularly pleased to welcome you before the committee. Members of the committee have always enjoyed Oregon strawberries.

Would you please identify yourself for the record.

Are you appearing alone?

STATEMENT OF ROBERT E. WARD, ON BEHALF OF NORTHWEST CANNERS & FREEZERS ASSOCIATION, OREGON STRAWBERRY COUNCIL, AND CALIFORNIA STRAWBERRY ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. WARD. Yes.

Mr. ULLMAN. Very good.

I want the members of the committee to know that we in the Northwest produce the finest fruits and vegetables in the country, and certainly the finest strawberries. You, sir; represent an outstanding organization with a fine record of public service, and I particularly am pleased to see you here today.

You may proceed.

Mr. WARD. Thank you.

Representative Ullman, Mr. Chairman, and members of the committee, my name is Robert E. Ward. I am the assistant general manager of United Flav-R-Pac Growers, a grower-owned processing cooperative, with plants in Gresham, Newberg, and Salem, Oreg.

I am presenting this testimony in behalf of the California strawberry industry, including growers, processors, and shippers; Northwest Canners & Freezers Association, a trade association of fruit and vegetable processing companies located in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho; the Oregon Strawberry Council, representing the strawberry growers of the State of Oregon; and growers and packers in the States of Michigan and Tennessee.

Mr. Chairman, with your permission, I would like to read a few letters into the record, one from Michigan, and one from Tennessee.

Mr. ULLMAN. Will you proceed?

Mr. WARD. The letter from Michigan is from Mr. James Bryan, president of Smeltzer Orchard Co., who is also vice president of the National Association of Frozen Food Packers, and a member of that organization's legislative committee:

DEAR BOB: We appreciate your efforts on the Mexican strawberry bill regarding a 20-percent import quota. Michigan packers and strawberry growers are definitely behind this bill, as we have met with Senator Hart and Senator Griffin in connection with Mexican import quotas.

We are just beginning our 1968 pack with a substantially reduced acreage in Northwestern Michigan. We are receiving extremely competitive prices from imported strawberries in New York and Philadelphia markets.

To date we have been unable to obtain information as to the quality of the fruit.

Sincerely.

The other letter is from Winter Garden Freezer Co., Inc., in Bells, Tenn., from Mr. Clay Cosco, who is a member of the National Association of Frozen Fruit Packers Legislative Committee:

Dear Bob: We will support you in your attempts to enact a 20-percent import quota on Mexican strawberries. Please advise me concerning the date the com-