

Mr. WARD. We in discussing this estimated the percent to be small, not real large. I mean less than half.

Mr. CONABLE. I see.

Thank you.

That is all, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. ULLMAN. You are saying that it is not possible to compete in the American market with Mexican strawberries? Is that right?

Mr. WARD. Correct.

Mr. ULLMAN. Are they able to produce a comparable berry there?

Mr. WARD. Their quality is improving. However, their quality has not been as good a quality as you do have in certain strawberry-producing areas.

However, for preserves versus a retail pack, they do a fair job.

Mr. ULLMAN. I am sure you have explored every possible avenue of protecting your industry. Your industry has had to cut back in its production, has it not?

Mr. WARD. Yes. We have cut back, from 1956 to 1959, since that time, and it appears that we are now starting on another decline in our acreages throughout the several States producing strawberries.

Mr. ULLMAN. Is it your feeling that they can go on developing new acreage in Mexico? Is there still a lot of land that can be used for berries?

Mr. WARD. Yes. It is our feeling that in 10 years they could completely take over the processed strawberry market in the United States, if they so desire, or were pushed ahead that fast.

Mr. ULLMAN. It is a heavy labor using commodity, and does this account for most of the advantage they have down there?

Mr. WARD. Yes. Our recent figures, which were stated in a report to the National Advisory Commission on Food and Fiber on January 11, 1967, stated that the Mexican field labor runs from \$1 to \$1.20 per day, versus \$1.40 an hour in California, and the cost of labor in Mexican plants is \$1.56 a day, versus \$2.09 an hour in California.

Mr. ULLMAN. Thank you very much, Mr. Ward. I am sure that the committee will take the matter under consideration.

Mr. WARD. Thank you.

Mr. BURKE. Without objection, Mr. Chairman, I think it would be appropriate to place in the record a number of Tariff Commission statistical tables and comments on strawberries, in connection with Mr. Ward's testimony.

Mr. ULLMAN. Without objection, the material will be placed in the record at this point.

(The material referred to follows:)