

This will change, once the domestic producers are eliminated.

As the tables will show you, a great deal of these imports come from West Germany, France, and Spain. The operations in those countries are controlled by a cartel, who have for years threatened the domestic producers with price cuts.

They have, during the past couple of years, carried out this threat. They have sold potash right here in the United States at a price much lower than even they can produce the product.

I am sure the farmers are quite glad to be able to buy potash at these temporarily reduced prices. The cartel and the foreign producers will raise their prices after domestic production is eliminated, to a point where they will be more than compensated for their temporary losses.

The U.S. farmer will pay much more in the long run for this fertilizer.

But what about the workers who are being forced out of work by this cartel, and Canadian imports?

During the last 12 months, one Carlsbad producer has closed their operation down completely, putting over 850 workers out of work.

IMCC has reduced their work force by over 50 percent, putting over 450 more workers out of work.

Duval Corp. closed down one mine and laid off 50 workers.

Potash Co. of America just laid off an additional 75 workers last month.

All together, we have, during the last 12 months, had over 1,480 workers put out of work in the Carlsbad area, because of potash imports.

Most of these now unemployed workers are over 50 years old, they only know one trade, potash mining. It is very late in their life to retrain them for other jobs. Even if it were possible to retrain them, there are no jobs available for them in the Carlsbad area.

Gentlemen, in the western part of the United States, there are many old mining industry ghost towns. Some are long forgotten, others are used somewhat as a tourist attraction.

Carlsbad, N. Mex., is rapidly becoming such a town. It will be a modern version of a ghost town, with real live ghosts being fed at the expense of the American taxpayer.

We will have a few tourists stopping in town to view the vacant buildings and to talk to the citizens about the good old days when the mines were operating, as they make their way to the Carlsbad Caverns.

It does not have to be this way. Something can be done to protect the life of the domestic potash industry, by putting a stop to the imports of potash.

This is a vital, basic industry, one which the United States cannot afford to lose, or to let foreign powers gain complete control of. This is just what is going to happen, if we are not successful in obtaining reasonable quotas on the imports of potash.

You gentlemen are our only hope. You, the U.S. Congress, are the only body that can give us the protection that we need.

I beg of you gentlemen not to put the high-sounding theory of free world trade, or the friendship of foreign countries, above the welfare of the U.S. citizens who work in our domestic potash industry.

I thank you.