

factors that should give healthy economic growth, and yet that growth isn't realized then I can't help but believe that imports into this country, excessive imports, in many fields, are affecting our economy.

I thank you for this opportunity of appearing before the committee. (Mr. McEwen's prepared statement follows:)

STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT C. McEWEN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM
THE STATE OF NEW YORK

I am most grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, and the other members of this Committee, for this opportunity to submit this statement to show my district's interest in these hearings.

I do not presume to tell this Committee how to legislate on a nationwide, indeed, an international problem. There are others far more qualified than I who have and will give you the benefit of their views and knowledge on these matters. However, I feel I owe it to my district to state what the proposed quotas mean to its people.

I am privileged to represent the 31st District of New York. Dairy farming is one of the basic industries of the district. In addition, a substantial number of residents depend on the iron and steel and lead and zinc industries for their livelihood.

There are also several mink farms and footwear manufacturers in the district which are feeling the effect of the more cheaply produced foreign goods.

There were, in 1964, about 6,400 dairy farms in the six counties of the 31st District employing an even greater number of people. This is the latest figure available from the New York State Department of Commerce. This is a decrease of about 2,000 dairy farms since 1959. I have been informed by the New York Department of Agriculture and Markets that their preliminary figures show the same unfortunate trend is continuing. In these five years the district lost about 23% of its dairy farms. Others concerned with the farmers' plight in addition to their families are businesses, large and small, which depend on the farmer as a consumer and purchaser of goods and services.

The adverse effect of imports on the dairy industry is not something new. I introduced legislation in 1967, H.R. 8065, the Dairy Import Act of 1967, which would give the Secretary of Agriculture the right to regulate imports of milk and dairy products. Nearly 200 of my colleagues have introduced or co-sponsored similar bills.

The action of President Johnson in June, 1967, when he reduced the volume of allowable imports of some dairy products, was of some help to our farmers, but action under Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act is not the complete answer to the problem facing our farmer now. Action taken under this provision is necessarily temporary and subject to loopholes because it is based on commodities and, as we know, other products can be developed which evade the definition of a commodity mentioned in the Act.

I am hopeful that these hearings will result in constructive proposals to aid our farmers. The hardships caused to families, not to mention our economy, by the loss of dairy farms because of insufficient income is of deep concern to me and to the people of my district.

I wish to point out that in the 31st District are located mines operated by companies which produce several of our basic minerals such as iron, talc, lead and zinc.

Jones and Laughlin Steel Corporation operates its New York Ore Division, Benson Mines, at Star Lake, New York, which employs 580 people. It has a payroll of about \$5,000,000 annually. This Committee, I am sure, realizes the importance of the continued operation of this mine at its present work force level. It is important to the miners, their families and their communities. Its importance to the employees and their families is obvious. Not so obvious is the fact that the company pays \$312,000 annually for local real estate and school taxes. The mine has an annual operating capacity of 1,800,000 gross tons of concentrates. Approximately 5,400,000 gross tons of crude ore has been mined each year since 1960. The plant has operated at about 75% capacity. Operation at a higher capacity could help improve the employment picture.

You are fully aware, I am sure, of the adverse effect the importation of foreign iron and steel products is having on our domestic iron and steel industry. I would hope that some form of help could be given the steel industry as a result of these hearings.