

Because of these conditions it is sincerely hoped, by not only companies such as ours but by the entire mink ranching industry in the United States of America, that you will add your support to the bills now pending.

Yours very truly,

NEW YORK AUCTION COMPANY, INC.,
WILLIAM F. FITZGERALD, *President*.

Mr. BERRY. Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

The CHAIRMAN. Are there any questions? If not, then, thank you, Mr. Berry, for sharing your views with us.

Mr. BERRY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Our next witness is from Ohio, the Honorable Delbert L. Latta. Mr. Latta, we appreciate your being with us this morning and you are recognized, sir.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DELBERT L. LATTA, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO**

Mr. LATTA. Mr. Chairman, I have received letters and petitions from hundreds of my constituents concerning the plight of the domestic mink ranching industry. The domestic mink ranchers are being forced to the wall by excessive imports of cheap quality and cheaply priced mink pelts from overseas—especially from the Scandinavian countries. My constituents have requested me to give them some assistance and I am most pleased to appear before this committee to plead their case for some import controls.

The mink ranching industry is not large in the Fifth District of Ohio, but mink ranching has, in the past, made a substantial contribution to the agricultural economy of the district. Mink are fed cereals and slaughter house and poultry plant byproducts. It is estimated that over 1 billion pounds of such byproducts are used by the domestic mink ranching industry each year. As this market continues to decline, the truck driver, the handler, the farmer, and the employees of slaughterhouses and poultry plants will feel the pinch.

At the beginning of 1967, according to the National Board of Fur Farm Organizations, I had 11 mink ranchers in the Fifth District and today I have approximately six. These ranchers have pelted out because they just couldn't compete with the quantity of foreign pelts coming in at low prices.

The national board has been in the forefront in the fight to protect this industry. They asked for and received a hearing before the Tariff Commission in 1959, but to no avail. Early last year they approached many Members of the Congress requesting that bills be introduced to preserve at least a part of the domestic market for them. Many such bills have been introduced in the House and Senate. Last year, the President requested the Tariff Commission to conduct another investigation of the industry which was done. The Commission report provided no relief although it did point out that prices for imported pelts were well below the past average prices for domestic pelts and that imports were increasing at a rapid pace. The Commission also