

found that ranchers were going out of business at an accelerating rate and that the domestic rancher was losing his share of the domestic market.

Although the Commission came to no findings or conclusions, a reading of the report does provide evidence that some relief is needed. A majority of those bills which have been introduced to provide relief would permit 40 percent of domestic consumption each year to come in duty free and a 50 percent ad valorem would be added after that 40 percent. This would leave 60 percent of the domestic market for domestic ranchers. It seems to me that this is fair. Both the foreign producer and the domestic rancher would share in the increases in domestic consumption.

The national board has advised me that in 1959 they had over 7,000 ranchers on the membership roles and today they have slightly over 3,100, which is about a 50-percent drop in less than 9 years. It would be difficult to find any other domestic industry that has been hit so hard by imports.

Again, I urge this committee to provide some assistance to these ranchers. We hear much these days about the gold outflow and I am unable to understand why we permit millions of dollars to go out of this country each year for purely a luxury product. A higher quality product is available right here at home. We could put a damper on at least a portion of this outflow by providing the domestic mink rancher with the relief he seeks.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. We appreciate your bringing to us your thoughts, Mr. Latta.

The next witness is our colleague from Utah, the Honorable Frank E. Moss. Mr. Moss, we appreciate having you with us and you are recognized.

STATEMENT OF HON. FRANK E. MOSS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF UTAH

Mr. Moss. The production of mink pelts is a major business in the State of Utah, so, therefore, I am vitally interested in H.R. 6694 and other similar bills which would limit the number of mink pelts imported to this country from foreign countries.

I believe that H.R. 6694 is a fair measure which will protect the interests of our domestic mink ranchers and still provide for a fair share of our market to foreign competition. I urge adoption of H.R. 6694.

Mr. Richard E. Westwood, a resident of Utah, currently serves as president of Emba Mink Breeders Association, a pelt-marketing cooperative. It markets for its members approximately two-thirds of all domestic mink pelts.

He informs me that the impact of imports on the domestic mink market is evident in two areas. First, the membership of his organization has dropped from a peak of 5,623 in 1958 to a low of 3,460 at the first of 1968. Many of those 3,460 now are out of the mink-raising business, but still have some pelts to sell and are, therefore, maintaining their membership for a short time.

The second factor is the price Emba members are receiving for their pelts. In 1966, the average price received (for the 1965 crop)