

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Mr. Reifel, for bringing to us your views. Are there any questions?

The next witness is the Honorable John Dellenback of Oregon. You are recognized, Mr. Dellenback, and you may proceed as you see fit.

**STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN DELLENBACK, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OREGON**

Mr. DELLENBACK. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, today, representatives of the fur ranching industry of the United States are appearing before this committee with testimony which indicates that American fur ranchers are losing an increasing share of the domestic market to imported Scandinavian pelts.

Ranchers in my district report that duty free imported pelts are taking more of the domestic market every year and, because of operating costs, they find it increasingly difficult to compete.

The United States occupies a unique position in the world economy. It is by far the largest importing and exporting country. The United States is the largest source of international capital and the largest dispenser of aid. For those reasons and others, the strength of the U.S. economy and the industries which make it such a potent economic force are not only of great importance to this country, but to the entire world.

While the United States is a signatory to agreements progressively reducing trade barriers between nations, which, in the long run, is in the best interest of our balance-of-payments situation and the general health of the economy, the Congress still has a responsibility to any domestic industry which is in difficulty as a result of foreign competition or of any other reason that threatens the existence of the industry and the payrolls which it generates. Fur ranching is an integral part of our agricultural economy. The high value product which this industry produces is currently facing serious economic difficulties and as a valued part of our economy deserves the careful attention of this Congress.

I thank the chairman and the members of the Ways and Means Committee for giving this industry an opportunity to present its case at this time.

The CHAIRMAN. If there are no questions, then thank you Mr. Dellenback, for your statement.

The next witness is the Honorable Lee H. Hamilton, of Indiana. You are recognized, sir.

**STATEMENT OF HON. LEE H. HAMILTON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF INDIANA**

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Chairman, I appear in support of America's mink ranchers, and urge the committee to report favorably, legislation that would restrict the imports of mink furs and protect American ranchers from foreign competitors.

The American mink industry exists in a volatile economic situation. It is constantly subject to new whims in fashion and highly dependent on the general health and prosperity of the Nation's economy. These severe handicaps do not need to be aggravated by the price-depressing