

effects of increased mink fur imports. But today imports are increasing, particularly from the Scandinavian countries. I believe the Congress has the duty to remedy this situation.

In December of last year the Tariff Commission, at the direction of the President, held public hearings on mink imports. It failed to reach any conclusions, and it failed to act.

If the American mink rancher is to get relief from the disappointing economic conditions he faces today, if the American mink rancher is to get a fair price for his pelts and a fair return on his investment, the Congress will have to act to protect his main markets from imports.

I urge that the Ways and Means Committee quickly recommend the necessary legislation to the Congress.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you Mr. Hamilton. Any questions?

Our colleague from Nebraska, Mr. Denney, is our next witness. We appreciate having you with us and you are recognized.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ROBERT V. DENNEY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEBRASKA**

Mr. DENNEY. Mr. Chairman, today, this committee will consider legislation concerning import controls with respect to skins of mink.

It is evident that mink ranching is basically a small agricultural enterprise. The family-size ranch is the rule and not the exception. It is almost identical to the family-size farm about which we hear so much. It appears that only about 20 percent of the known mink ranches in the United States can be described as commercial operations.

The mink farmer today faces a crisis which he cannot solve himself. Low-cost foreign mink ranchers have been relentless in taking over our domestic market, and in the process, our smaller domestic ranchers are being driven out of business. At the present rate of disappearance, 500 mink ranchers go out of business each year, or about 10 percent of the total mink ranches. It is abundantly clear that as more foreign mink skins are coming into this country, domestic ranchers are being forced out of business at an accelerated pace.

In the past, the American mink rancher could produce a few more pelts at a smaller profit and remain in business, but this is no longer true. Excessive imports have so swamped the domestic market that even the best efforts of the domestic ranchers to develop the American market cannot take care of the domestic market plus the increasing imports.

Legislation providing import controls can prevent bankruptcy now on the horizon for many, many small mink ranchers. This Congress, the Nation, is rightly concerned about the serious balance-of-payments problem. Imports of foreign mink are making a substantial and growing contribution to that deficit each year.

I urge that this legislation receive prompt consideration by this committee and the House of Representatives.

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

Mr. DENNEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Our next witness is from North Carolina, the Honorable Nick Galifianakis. Mr. Galifianakis, we appreciate your being with us this day and you are recognized, sir.