

There are 53 mink ranches in the 12th District of Illinois according to information supplied by the National Board of Fur Farm Organizations, Inc. Just a year ago there were 60 ranches. Unless positive steps are taken by the Congress, remaining mink ranches in my Congressional district and the entire mink ranching industry will be threatened by foreign imports.

The pending legislation is not intended to prohibit imports of mink pelts nor does the measure call for any Federal subsidy or support for the American mink industry. On the other hand, the measure recognizes that the national economy depends upon healthy industry including a healthy mink ranching industry.

Mr. Chairman, you will receive expert testimony from other witnesses who are fully informed on the impact of foreign imports—particularly imports emanating from the Scandinavian countries. My statement to the Committee reflects the interests of the domestic mink ranching industry in the 12th District of Illinois.

I am confident that one of the responsibilities of the Congress of the United States is to enact legislation to protect and encourage a healthy private enterprise. It is that objective which the pending measure seeks to attain.

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee, I urge your favorable recommendation of H.R. 6694.

The CHAIRMAN. We will have to suspend the hearing for approximately 30 minutes in order to respond to this quorum call. We will be back in about 30 minutes.

(A brief recess was taken.)

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will please be in order.

Our next subject matter is that of fur, Mr. David W. Henderson. Mr. Henderson.

Mr. BYRNES. Mr. Chairman, while Mr. Henderson is coming forward, Congressman Kyl of Iowa contacted me this morning and asked me to put this statement of his in the record. I am quoting.

"It is my opinion that the domestic mink producers you will hear today have a valid case worthy of consideration. Final markup of two bills in my own committee this morning prevent me being present at your hearing. I do want you to know of my sincere interest."

I know also, Mr. Chairman, that there are many other Members of Congress who would be present for this testimony except for the fact that they have business to attend to in their own committees and also the House is going into session early.

The CHAIRMAN. You and I observed other Members present at an earlier hour when the House convened. Presumably they were here for this subject. I notice our former colleague present.

Do you want to present the witnesses?

STATEMENT OF HAROLD O. LOVRE, FORMER CONGRESSMAN FROM SOUTH DAKOTA; DAVID W. HENDERSON, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL BOARD OF FUR FARM ORGANIZATIONS; COORDINATING WITH HARLEY WITTIG, PAST PRESIDENT, AND RICHARD E. WESTWOOD, PRESIDENT, EMBA MINK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION; AND ANDREW BARTEL, PRESIDENT, GREAT LAKES MINK ASSOCIATION

Mr. LOVRE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

First of all on behalf of the domestic mink ranchers we want to thank you for this privilege of presenting our case. We also want to extend our thanks and appreciation to the many members not only of this committee but also of the House and the other body for the various