

I have a notice here, Mr. Chairman, that my time is up. Shall I continue or not?

The CHAIRMAN. Finish your statement.

Mr. HENDERSON. Thank you, sir. Of the slight variations to be found among these bills, two call for a 30-70 ratio in sharing the market with imports. An important modification of our original approach is to be found in H.R. 13399, introduced by Congressman Lloyd of Utah and sponsored by our constituent, Great Lakes Mink Association. It requests the removal of dressed mink from the quota, to be placed under a separate bracket requiring a 50-percent ad valorem duty. This is in direct response to the great danger, now developing in Europe, of counterfeiting the natural color of fine dark mink, and perhaps mutations, by dressing cheap inferior foreign mink with a new chemical process able to imitate the best of natural color, until now the special province of skilled American breeders.

Although the quantity of imported dressed mink is not now substantial, the availability of vast quantities of cheap dark mink in Europe, coupled with far cheaper dressing charges from plants using the new counterfeiting methods, could produce an avalanche of such dressed imitations overnight.

TIME RUNS OUT

Eighteen months have now elapsed since the American rancher approached Congress for relief. In that 18 months he has been through two disastrous marketing seasons, selling his crops largely below cost of production. Under such circumstances credit resources are evaporating rapidly, especially since the performance record of the industry, characterized by the failure of over 1,000 producers in the last 6 months, indicates to lenders a hazardous road ahead for production loans. The market itself, on the disaster plateau as described earlier, remains as was the case last year at about \$14 gross. To be exact, we have compiled total pelt sales from the two New York auction houses, first for the 1966-67 season to June 1, showing an average of \$14.95; and for the 1967-68 season to the same point, June 1, showing an average of \$15.50. The difference of 55 cents can hardly be considered an improvement, considering that many odd lots and low ends remain yet to be sold in the cleanup of the season.

Certainly there are now abundant facts by which all interested parties may judge the merits of our case. Extensive congressional support has been provided through 84 cosponsorships from 29 different States. We have been the subject of extensive investigation by the Tariff Commission, as requested by the President. The stage is set.

We now implore your committee to take this matter under consideration, not only in the cold terms of economic theory, but in the warm, human terms of families and of fathers and sons and of deserving and hard-working citizens of this Republic. The loss of ranches and of lifesavings, the displacement of earning power and self-reliance is already vast.

Please give it your best attention.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

(The information referred to follows:)