

Barring unforeseen events, the long-range possibilities for the mink industry are a great deal more encouraging at this moment than they appeared to be this time a year ago. The prospects of fewer pelts, with a corresponding improvement in quality next season, is the logical remedy to most of the mink industry's market problems suffered in recent years.

This is their own words.

Mr. BROYHILL. One final question, Mr. Chairman. This is for you or Mr. Dreisin, one or the other. Mr. Dreisin, I believe you made the statement that mink is a luxury product purchased from disposable income.

Are you suggesting that mink ranchers or the mink industry should be completely indifferent to the nonluxury industry if it could be found that some protection was necessary for them?

Mr. SHARP. No, Mr. Broyhill; I don't. I am frank to say to this committee that if it gets through the emotions that these gentlemen have and looks at the facts which are exhaustively set out in this long report of the Tariff Commission if on the basis of the normal tests which the Tariff Commission and this committee have tried to apply over a period of years as to when an industry is in a distressed condition due to imports, attributable to imports largely, it should give this serious consideration in the light of our overall foreign policy.

Whether it is a luxury industry or whether it would be producing necessities, it would make no difference. The same results should apply. They are well known and in my belief they don't add up to a case of relief in this instance.

The CHAIRMAN. Any further questions? If not, again we thank you gentlemen for your testimony.

(The following letters and statements were received, for the record, by the committee:)

STATEMENT OF HON. CALVIN L. RAMPTON, GOVERNOR OF UTAH

Chairman Mills and members of this committee, as Governor of the State of Utah, I wish to ask your support of the mink import bills pending before this committee. Mink ranching is an important segment of the Utah economy; however, this industry has been hard hit in recent years because of imported mink.

Using the National Board of Fur Farm Organization's statistical figure of \$19.48 for the average domestic pelt price for 1966 and \$14.00 for 1967, the economy of the State of Utah dropped by approximately \$3,288,000 in 1967. Since nearly all Utah pelts are sold outside the state, this was money coming into the state from outside sources. Prices are up slightly this year, but production had been cut back due to the low prices, so the loss to Utah in 1968 will be equally severe as in 1967.

But the income drop is only part of our loss. Even more serious is the fact that our producers have had to cut back their herds, and some have gone completely out of business. A few are surviving temporarily on their depreciation reserves; and their planned programs of replacement have come to a halt, and old pens are being patched as long as they will hold a mink. By doing this, the rancher saves the money he would be spending for new materials and he reduces his labor force by about one half. But this cost cutting can only be a temporary thing if the rancher is to remain in business very long. Eventually old pens and equipment will have to be replaced. Our ranchers cannot use up their reserves for depreciation and suffer for it later on. Some ranchers have already used up their reserves and credit from selling pelts below cost of production, and these are the ones who have pelted-out their breeding herds. Utah cannot afford to lose this vital industry.

According to the Tariff Commission, in its report to the President dated April 9, 1968, twenty-seven per cent of the world crop is produced by the United States, while 45 per cent of the world crop is consumed by the U.S. In the period