

These factors were taken into consideration prior to the formulation of this ratio. Furthermore, I think that we should stick to the ratio, as originally agreed upon; that is what my appearance here is all about.

I, and many others, are tired of the way that "exceptions" have continually appeared in the administration of the quota. I am concerned, that Canadian production is never measured, only "estimated" and that Canadian importation into this country has consistently exceeded that "estimate" during the last 6 years.

If petroleum products come into the United States, then they should be included under the ratio. No other approach makes sense. Furthermore, I can see no reason to determine that petrochemical feedstocks, or petrochemical endproducts should not be included under the ratio. Arguments contrary to this feeling have failed to convince me otherwise.

There are many other factors that I could point to that logically would justify the crying need for Congress to once again clarify our intent in this matter through enactment of H.R. 10697 and similar bills. The Department of the Interior must be made to understand that it simply cannot decide arbitrarily, first, what they want to do, then seize upon the "easy" answer of declaring more importation to be "outside the ratio."

However, I do not want to trespass too strongly on this opportunity to call my concern to your attention.

I have all that I need in the way of evidence to justify my feelings that a better approach is needed. Every time I return to the 13th Congressional District of Texas, I see new signs that a vital industry is being allowed to suffocate on the glut of imported petroleum that the Department of the Interior has chosen to say represents an "exception" to the ratio.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. I appreciate your coming to the committee.

Our next witness is Mr. Matsunaga. Mr. Matsunaga?

Mr. Price of Texas? Come forward, Mr. Price. We are pleased to have you with us this morning, the Honorable Bob Price, a Member of Congress from Texas, and you are recognized, sir.

STATEMENT OF HON. BOB PRICE, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF TEXAS

Mr. PRICE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First, Mr. Chairman, I would like to commend you and the members of this committee for holding these hearings. Not only is the oil import program of vital importance to the economy of the district I represent, but agricultural imports, especially meat, textiles, and dairy products, have had a serious impact on farm prices.

The hearings on trade and tariffs are welcome developments toward correcting a serious problem.

In addition to legislation to assure compliance with the oil import program as it was intended, I have also sponsored bills to revise the Meat Import Act; another to establish quotas on dairy product imports; and also a textile import bill.