

enacted, such hurried emergency action would not be necessary and we would have quotas which stabilized the dairy industry.

This is more than just a problem for the American dairy farmer. It is a problem for the consumer. We must produce fresh milk in this country. We can't import it. And, the dairy farmers must also have a market for dairy products so they can sell their surplus milk in the form of dairy products such as cheese and dry milk.

This import problem adversely affects our balance of payments. It is estimated that the dollar drain, resulting from importing dairy products, was nearly \$70.5 million in 1966 and nearly \$74 million last year.

Consider the effect on the price support program. The U.S. Department of Agriculture bought nearly \$185 million worth of butter, almost \$176 million worth of dried milk and \$93.8 million worth of cheese during 1967. While the USDA was using funds to buy surplus dairy products in this country, we were allowing importers to ship dairy products into this country.

This problem has been growing with each successive year. We take emergency action but this does not solve the problem. It only stops imports for awhile until a new product is developed which does not come under any quota.

And, if you have any dairy farmers in your district you've heard from them about this. They want something done about the import problem.

They are unanimous in their support of the Dairy Import Act.

My bill would limit dairy product imports to the average butterfat and nonfat milk solids shipped into this country from 1961 through 1965. The import quotas would increase if our domestic consumption increased and in the same ratio. The President could authorize additional imports in the national interest. The bill is flexible and allows importers to share in our markets.

Any study of the dairy import situation shows a need for such permanent legislation.

Our dairy farmers are in trouble and they need effective limitations on unchecked imports.

The problem is dramatized every time section 22 action is taken.

We can take a position now and set effective quotas and stabilize our dairy industry.

Mr. HERLONG. Thank you, Mr. Abbitt, for bringing to us your thoughts. Are there any questions?

The next witness is the Honorable Howard W. Robison of New York. Mr. Robison, we appreciate having you with us and you are recognized.

STATEMENT OF HON. HOWARD W. ROBISON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. ROBISON. I would like to request that consideration be given, to my bill, H.R. 9051, and similar measures, to regulate imports of milk and milk products.

As I am sure you are well aware, large quantities of dairy products are presently imported into the United States without any controls. The Presidential proclamation of June 30, 1967—under Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act—provided some relief to domestic