

dairy farmers, however, many loopholes still exist through which foreign dairy products are being imported in ever-increasing quantities. This only adds to the many problems facing the dairy farmers and their cooperatives and increases the cost to the Federal Government of the price support program.

The Dairy Import Act that I have proposed would restrict imports to the annual levels of the years 1961 through 1965 and would tie future imports to consumption based on the same years. It would, however, give the President power to permit additional imports for overriding economic or national security reasons, so long as milk prices received by dairy farmers are at or above the parity price.

On behalf of the dairy farmers and their cooperatives in my district and throughout the country, I respectively urge your favorable consideration of the Dairy Import Act.

Mr. HERLONG. We appreciate your bringing to us your thoughts, Mr. Robison.

The next witness is from Arizona, the Honorable John J. Rhodes. Mr. Rhodes, we appreciate your being with us this afternoon and you are recognized, sir.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN J. RHODES, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF ARIZONA

Mr. RHODES. Mr. Chairman, I introduced H.R. 5744, to regulate the imports of milk and dairy products, in the honest belief that such legislation was warranted to afford needed protection to the dairy farmers and cooperatives of my district, and of the Nation. I am, of course, acutely aware of, and sensitive to, the policy of the Nation to reduce trade barriers and encourage international commerce. Nevertheless, I am sure we all agree that in some instances there may be such disruptive influences on various sectors of the domestic economy to justify the imposition of restrictive measures. I believe that such is the case with the dairy farmer in America.

That the American dairy producer has suffered at the hands of increased dairy imports has been recognized in past legislative enactments. Indeed, the Presidential proclamation of June 30, 1967, made pursuant to section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act recognized the plight of the domestic dairy industry and provided some degree of relief. But, many loopholes were left open for the importation of foreign dairy products, and foreign producers have been taking advantage of these loopholes to the extreme detriment of the American dairy industry. Among the dairy commodities passing through these loopholes have been evaporated milk, chocolate crumb, and various cheeses—all of which are being imported in ever-increasing quantities. It is especially interesting, in this regard, that the increased problems such importation have caused to domestic producers have resulted in increased costs to the Federal Government in its operation of the price support program.

The apparent ineffectiveness of section 22 in protecting the American dairy industry strengthens the need for the kinds of regulation of imports provided in H.R. 5744. The dairy industry has always been of great pride to American agriculture and to the American people, and I join with my many colleagues in respectfully urging the com-