

It is to the credit of the Food and Drug Administration that the contaminated mix was discovered before it reached the tables of thousands of Americans.

The fact remains, however, that we do not have adequate means to protect our citizens from second-rate foreign imports.

The first step, in my mind is the enactment of an adequate dairy import bill similar to one sponsored by 202 Representatives and 59 Senators.

My bill, H.R. 4768, would limit import levels to the average of those during the 1961-65 period, with an allowance for the growth of the market.

Your committee's expeditious approval of this proposal would go a long way to help relieve the hardships of the American dairyman, protect the consumer, and help insure fair competition.

Mr. HERLONG. Are there any questions? Thank you, Mr. Nelsen for sharing your thoughts with us today.

Our colleague from New York, the Honorable Samuel S. Stratton, is our next witness. Welcome, sir.

STATEMENT OF HON. SAMUEL S. STRATTON, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEW YORK

Mr. STRATTON. Mr. Chairman, I appear before the committee on behalf of my bill, H.R. 6404, to regulate imports of milk and dairy products.

The problems facing our dairy farmers today are well known to all of us. My own district in New York State is a very important dairy area comprising small family farms. Like all other dairy areas in the United States, they have been severely hurt by the increasing rate of dairy imports, particularly over the last several years. During 1966 imports of all dairy products into the United States increased by almost 300 percent over 1965 which took a considerable bite of the domestic milk and butterfat market. Imports of butter fat-sugar mixtures during 1966 were about 95 million pounds compared to only 31½ million pounds in 1965. Imports of Colby cheese also increased considerably during 1966. Through September 1966 imports totaled 28 million pounds, more than double the amount imported during the same period in 1965.

The excess of European surplus dairy products during the first 6 months of 1967, coupled with increasing pressure on Congress and the President to remedy the situation, prompted the President under authority of section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act to take action reducing imports of dairy products from an annual rate of nearly 4.3 billion pounds milk equivalent to about 1 billion pounds. This action was intended to bring imports to less than 1 percent of domestic milk production, which in June of last year had reached about 121 billion pounds annually. This cutback in imports brought certain dairy items under the quota system for the first time: butterfat-sugar mixtures, Colby and other American types of cheese, and frozen cream. Imports of all American-type cheese are now limited by quota to a total of approximately 16 million pounds, and butterfat-sugar mixtures are limited to 2.580 million pounds annually. Frozen