

milks cows, plus works at another job, but still people on welfare made more last year than we did.

We are willing to work a lot harder than most people are to make a living; all we ask is a fair price. We want 100 percent parity not 74 percent.

Please support this bill for the sake of all young farmers in the United States. We need help desperately.

Dairy farming is an expensive operation. Equipment, land, buildings, and herd maintenance costs have continually climbed but returns have not. And the dairy farmer is the first to realize it. Moreover, the farms devoted to dairying are an important segment of the agricultural population in Ohio and the State department of agriculture estimates that the 30,000 dairy farmers produce some 20 percent of the total farm income for the State.

This income, of course, has effects on the financial structure of the community, town, village, township, or county of the farmer and on the commerce conducted within them. The stability which comes from this influence has been threatened by the effect of undercutting imports.

Dairy farmers are not alone in feeling the effects of imports. The position of the Ohio cheese industry has also been eroded.

The president of the Ohio Swiss Cheese Association, an organization of dairy supply distributors which has served its members for more than 50 years, noted that:

Foreign cheese with questionable production standards has been allowed to flood the domestic market and drive prices down. The Government buying agencies have deliberately underbid the market cheese price and further weakened the price. Consequently, prices are back to almost the same level which has existed 12 years or longer. There is no longer any incentive to young or old dairy farmers to remain in business and give the cheese industry any degree of stability.

The dairy farmer is not asking for a Government handout, but only that he be protected from unfair trade practices * * * certainly free enterprise in this country must be preserved.

The thoughts of the individual farmer, the small county cooperative, and the larger regional associations are the same. They all want relief from the abuses of an unworkable import system. I am sure that the committee has ample statistical evidence of what imported products are doing, but I wanted to insure that the committee also has the thoughts of the farmer, as they have been expressed to me.

There have been indications that abusive import practices have not only been the subject of close scrutiny but that there have been attempts to control the flow of products into the United States. These, however, have not worked. Legislation such as H.R. 8113 and the many other bills like it would, I believe, provide the needed control, and they should be given approval.

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

Our next witness is also from Ohio, the Honorable William H. Harsha. Proceed as you see fit, sir.

STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM H. HARSHA, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OHIO

Mr. HARSHA. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I respectfully urge your favorable consideration of H.R. 7703, the Dairy Import Act of 1967, and further urge that this legislation be reported for action by the House of Representatives at the earliest possible