time. This legislation is of tremendous importance to the dairy farmers of our country, as it will regulate the flow of dairy imports into this country and enable the American dairymen to receive fair and workable prices for their products.

There is an urgent need for relief from the pressures of low-priced imports on our domestic dairy market, and this need has been growing dramatically in the past years. The result has been declining prices and uncertain or inadequate incomes for the farmers, a trend which not even the large, efficient producers can maintain and still survive. With definite and known levels of imports the market could adjust and our dairy farmers could make future plans. Without this legislation many family farms, which have been the backbone of our great Nation and which are vital parts of our society, will be driven out of business. Instead, they must be allowed and encouraged to grow under healthy marketing conditions. The establishment of self-sufficiency in this important segment of the farm community will contribute to the economic well-being of the entire Nation.

The need for this stabilization of the dairy market is evidenced by its current dependence upon price-support measures, by the belated actions already taken under section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, and, most importantly, by the continuing increase of imports flooding our markets. Although it may seem that there have been ample Government actions to aid this industry, it is extremely significant to note that the increased need for import quotas stems largely from evasions of our present regulations. The problem has been recognized by the Government, but the current inadequate controls have left our dairy farmers subject to subterfuge and have, in fact, encouraged evasions by allowing increases, not only in existing products, but also in products created for the purposes of quota evasion. For instance, milk equivalents rose from 900 million pounds in 1965 to 2.6 billion pounds in 1966 and butterfat-sugar mixtures jumped from zero in 1961 to 105,626,000 pounds in 1966. One of the new products is chocolate crumb, imports of which rose from 54,000 pounds in 1960 to 21.5 million pounds in 1967. These are, of course, only a few examples of the changes which have occurred throughout the range of dairy products. It is obvious that the high profits which the American markets offer to importers, whose production costs are far lower than our own, encourage invasion of our markets and evasion of our quotas. There is certainly no reason why such action should be tolerated or encouraged by our lack of responsive action.

In light of the justifiable need for action, in order to preserve a fair and stable market, to protect American dairymen from a flood of imports and to allow him to achieve a workable level of income with parity prices for his milk, I give my full support to the Dairy Import Act of 1967 and urge its approval by the committee.

Mr. Herlong. It was good of you, Mr. Harsha, to bring us your thoughts on this subject today.

Mr. Harsha. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, it was a pleasure.

Mr. Herlong. The next witness is the Honorable James Harvey of Michigan. Mr. Harvey, we appreciate having you with us and you are recognized.