

I don't believe that there is any question that our dairy farmers not only need but deserve enactment of the Dairy Import Act.

As this committee concludes its work, I certainly hope that it will include provisions of legislation sponsored by 200 Members of the House on dairy imports.

On behalf of the thousands of Michigan eighth district dairy farmers, thank you for this opportunity to present these facts and viewpoints.

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

Our colleague from Nebraska, the Honorable Dave Martin, is our next witness. Welcome, sir, proceed as you see fit.

STATEMENT OF HON. DAVE MARTIN, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF NEBRASKA

Mr. MARTIN. Mr. Chairman and members of this committee, I thank you for the opportunity to present this statement on dairy imports to you in hopes that some permanent and affirmative action can be taken by you and this Congress in the near future to see to it that current tariff laws and provisions are not further circumvented.

As you know, I represent a rural-agricultural district. Though dairying is not the largest segment of our agricultural economy, it does play a very significant role, as well as furnish a fine way of life for many Nebraskans. For this reason, I have introduced H.R. 9676, legislation geared to curb imports of dairy products by such amounts as to prevent them from interfering with our market, but still allow some reasonable trade levels.

Over 200 Members of the 90th Congress have introduced such legislation, and last year President Johnson finally took Executive action based on a study by the Tariff Commission to restrict imports of certain products so defined by section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act and the tariff schedule. This action by the President, in his proclamation dated July 6, 1967, is to be commended, but it came well after the imports of certain dairy product equivalents soared to an excessive 4 billion pounds. Such action was good, but perhaps too late to really provide the protection it was designed to furnish.

Due to such delays, I favor permanent legislation, rather than Executive or administrative action, which is so often too late and ineffective. Legislation, such as proposed by my bill and those my colleagues, would not allow for any delay and would have a preestablished base level for imports. I do not feel that such a critical commodity as dairy products should be left up in the air, waiting for administrative action, especially when we are competing with imports.

Present restrictions on dairy products and their equivalents are circumvented by use of imports such as cheese, curds, dried, powdered, and condensed products, as well as a variety of dairy products mixed in prepared products. Not only are tariff regulations being circumvented, but I feel that a serious health hazard has been, or may well be created.

As a consequence of these loopholes, and the slowness of the administration to enact section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act, permanent legislation is the only answer. Your consideration and in-