We are all aware of the critical cost-price squeeze that is driving our American farmers off the land. Today, there are only 500,000 dairy farms in our Nation as compared to almost two and a half million in 1940. If this trend is not reversed or halted, an adequate milk supply in this country will be seriously threatened.

One of the biggest threats to dairy prices today is the fantastic volume of dairy products imported from abroad. As we all know, the Secretary of Agriculture has all of the authority that he needs under present law to restrict imports of dairy products. The Secretary's refusal to invoke this authority is the major reason for my introduction of a dairy import bill.

All our dairymen want is an opportunity to compete on a fair and equitable basis. This requires elimination of policies which favor foreign producers at the expense of our own farmers. Recordbreaking imports of dairy products continue to usurp markets from our domestic producers.

Effective import controls are necessary to provide dairy farmers a level of income commensurate with that received by other segments of our economy, and to enable farmers to maintain a strong and progressive industry in the face of ever-increasing costs.

Import controls are necessary to assure an adequate supply of fluid milk and other dairy products for our growing population to meet our needs for national defense and security, to meet the critical needs of our Government for use in foreign nations as an integral part of our foreign policy, and to provide for essential uses within the United States.

Mr. Herlong. We appreciate you bringing us your thoughts, Mr. Denney.

Next we have the Honorable G. V. (Sonny) Montgomery, our colleague from Mississippi. Welcome, sir, and proceed as you see fit.

STATEMENT OF HON. G. V. (SONNY) MONTGOMERY, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI

Mr. Montgomery. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, I am happy to submit this statement in support of H.R. 8297, a bill which I introduced to regulate imports of milk and dairy products to this country.

The most important dairy farmer need at this time is the strengthening of import controls on foreign produced dairy products. Ever since quotas were first invoked in 1953 they have been continuously enlarged and eroded. The one remaining course is legislation.

This bill would limit imports to the average butterfat and nonfat milk solids shipped into this country between 1961 and 1965. Also, as the U.S. domestic market grows, the import quotas would be increased in the same ratio.

Effective import controls are necessary in order that farmers may have an opportunity to achieve parity prices for their milk and butterfat. Achievement of parity prices as a goal of national public policy is clearly set forth in all major agricultural legislation, including the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1933, the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, and the Agricultural Act of 1949.