

Mr. HERLONG. Thank you very much.

Do you have any questions?

Mr. CONABLE. No, but it is a very fine statement.

Mr. HERLONG. I think it is an excellent statement, and I am one of those joining in the introduction of bills along this line.

Thank you very much.

The committee will recess for a few moments until we can answer the rollcall and will be back if Mr. Owen will be patient for a few moments, please.

(A short recess was taken.)

Mr. BURKE (presiding). The committee will be in order.

The next witness is Mr. Stephen F. Owen, Jr. We welcome you to the committee and, if you will identify yourself, you may proceed.

**STATEMENT OF STEPHEN F. OWEN, JR., COUNSEL, AMERICAN PRODUCERS OF ITALIAN-TYPE CHEESES ASSOCIATION, AND STELLA CHEESE DIVISION, UNIVERSAL FOODS CORP.**

Mr. OWEN. Mr. Chairman, my name is Stephen Owen, and I am representing today the American Producers of Italian-Type Cheeses Association, and also the Stella Cheese Division of the Universal Foods Corp., Milwaukee, Wis.

We have filed a statement with the committee with the requisite number of copies, and I assume that this will be placed in the record, with the committee's consent.

Mr. BURKE. If you wish to summarize, your entire statement will appear in the record.

Mr. OWEN. At this point, I think a summary would be in order. Briefly I will run through some of the positions that we have on this current legislation before the committee.

Our first request is that the loophole for cut or grated Italian-type cheese be used as under quotas set up under section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act and the legislation introduced by the distinguished senior minority member of this committee, Mr. Byrnes, be adopted, H.R. 17706, a very simple bill, one paragraph, to close the loophole for all types of cut or grated cheese.

In our case Italian-type cheeses have been cut or grated to avoid a quota. In this way the quota provisions have been successfully avoided. In fact we note a tremendous increase.

In 1965 the loophole quota imports were 95,000 pounds and have increased in 1966 to 450,000 pounds and in 1967, the calendar year, they increased to 1,494,000 pounds, which shows that this loophole has been used to advantage by people seeking to avoid the section 22 quota.

We ask that legislation be adopted to close this loophole once and for all.

I might mention that last year we appeared before the Tariff Commission and asked that the cut and grated loophole be closed and the Tariff Commission failed to recommend that this action be taken, and the President in his June 30, 1967 proclamation also failed to take action.

We note again that Secretary of Agriculture Freeman strongly endorsed closure of this loophole, but notwithstanding, nothing was done.