

Mr. BURKE. Are there any questions?

Thank you very much, Mr. Owen for your testimony.

Our next witness is Mr. Martin A. Fromer. We welcome you to the committee, Mr. Fromer. If you will identify yourself, you may proceed.

STATEMENT OF MARTIN A. FROMER, COUNSEL, CHEESE IMPORTERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

Mr. FROMER. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee: I represent the Cheese Importers Association of America, an organization which comprises in its membership American firms engaged in the importation, sale, and distribution of domestic cheese.

I have filed a statement with the committee, and I ask that the full statement be made a part of this record.

I would like to do two things at this moment. One is to comment upon the so-called loophole that exists in regulations and the other is to summarize my statement.

I would like to point out that attached to our full statement are tables of statistics of cheese production and cheese imports from 1936 right down through 1966 and supplementing that is a separate table of imports of varieties by countries of origin in 1967.

We have heard so many times the statement that cut Italian cheese avoids quota. Let's take a look at the record. The record of imports, as you will note, from our statistics indicates that there has barely been any increase in the importation of any cow's milk Italian-type cheese for over a period of almost 30 years. The import in 1949 of Italian-type cow's milk cheese was 8 million pounds. The import in 1966 was 8,200,000 pounds and in 1967 about 9,900,000 pounds. In the same period of time, the domestic production has grown from 53 million to 274 million pounds of cheese.

Let's talk about the quota. In 1960 a quota was established for 11,500,000 pounds. We haven't filled that quota to this day even if you include all the cut cheese, all the grated cheese and all the so-called evasions.

Returning to the summary of my statement, we fully support the proposed Trade Expansion Act of 1968, H.R. 17551, and subscribe to the President's message which accompanied the proposed act.

Imports of foreign types of cheese have stimulated the taste for different varieties of cheese in the United States, including Italian types of cheese, blue cheese, swiss cheese, and other. The result has been a steady and continuous increase in the production of foreign type cheese in the United States.

There are pending at the present time with respect to cheese imports the type of quota bills condemned by the President in his message. It has been proposed to place import restrictions on all dairy products, including foreign types of cheese which have been historically imported into the United States for generations, and including dairy products which are already under import restriction. As this committee well knows, section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act provides that import restrictions may be imposed when imports of agricultural products are in such quantities, and under such conditions, as to render or tend to render ineffective, or materially interfere with, the price support programs of the U.S. Department