

production while imports of these historically imported cheeses have not themselves substantially increased and, in fact, in many instances, the volume of imports of foreign types of cheese have decreased.

As shown by the tables of statistics, the amount of foreign cheese consumed in the United States is minute. This is especially so in a country that produces 120 billion pounds of milk and consumes over 2.7 billion pounds of cheese, including cottage cheese. Imports of all cheese amount to as little as 0.2 of an ounce of cheese per capita, per week. The total amount of milk equivalent in all imported cheese represents only a very minute percentage of the total U.S. milk production. Based upon an importation of an estimated 125 million pounds of cheese this year, a substantial portion of which is made from partly skimmed milk, it is estimated that the milk equivalent required to manufacture said cheese is about 1 billion pounds. This compares with a total U.S. milk production in 1966 of about 120 billion pounds, down from 126 billion pounds 5 years ago.

The ratio of milk equivalent in imported cheese compared to U.S. milk production is less than nine-tenths of 1 percent. Although cheese imports increased in 1967, by reason of the imposition of quotas on colby and American-type cheese on July 1, 1967, the current volume of imports do not exceed and are even less than in 1966.

It has been proposed in pending legislation that dairy product imports be restricted to the average annual amount imported in the years 1961-65. This loses sight of the fact that there has been a substantial increase in U.S. consumption and utilization of cheese in the last 6 years.

Production has increased from 1,592,022,000 pounds in 1962 to 1,873,595,000 pounds in 1966, an increase of 270,573,000 pounds. This increase in U.S. cheese production in 4 years alone is twice the volume of imports of all cheese in 1966. There was a further increase in production to 1,897,325 pounds in 1967. It also loses sight of the fact that imports of cheddar cheese, as well as specified other types of cheese, have been restricted and therefore always kept below the amount fixed by quota. The annual average of American cheese produced in this country (which term in the USDA tabulation of statistics includes cheddar cheese, washed curd cheese, granular cheese, jack cheese, and monterey cheese) for the years 1961 to 1965, inclusive, is 1,133,339,000 pounds. In 1967, U.S. production of American cheese is estimated to amount to 1,271,460,000 pounds.

I hear no proposal to cut U.S. production back by the 130-million-pound increase over the annual average from 1961 to 1965, nor do we propose or want such a cut. I am only trying to demonstrate the unfairness of a proposal which would further unnecessarily restrict the business of U.S. cheese importers whom I represent, and the discrimination against the operations of an industry that makes a substantial contribution to the dairy industry as a whole, to the tastes of the American cheese consumer and to the economy of our country.

The imposition of restrictions against the import of cheese is contrary to the obligations undertaken by the United States under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade and is contrary to our best interests in international trade. The United States sought and secured under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade a waiver from its obligations so that section 22 might be applied without conflicting with its international obligations.