

equivalent, down from 1.0 billion pounds a year earlier, or less than one-third than the amount during the same period last year (USDA Dairy Situation, May 1968).

The prompt action taken with respect to the imports in question demonstrates the effectiveness of the Agricultural Adjustment Act to deal with the situation and the lack of need for the proposed across-the-board import restrictions on all dairy products.

On June 10, 1968, the President, acting upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture, proclaimed import quotas on condensed and evaporated milk and cream and directed the Tariff Commission to investigate the need for quotas on other dairy products which are not now subject to import restriction. Again the effectiveness of Section 22 of the Agricultural Adjustment Act was demonstrated, as well as the lack of need of any further legislation on the subject.

The pending proposed bills H.R. 785, 1293, 3816, 3940, etc. would place import restrictions on all dairy products including all foreign types of cheese which have historically been imported into the United States, without any consideration as to whether or not similar or competitive cheeses are being manufactured in the United States. For example, a substantial part of the cheese imported into the United States, such as roquefort cheese, pecorino cheese, and other cheeses made of sheep's milk, and numerous specialty types, are not manufactured in the United States. Thus, the Tariff Commission, in its report, states:

"U.S. consumption of sheep's milk cheeses is virtually all supplied by imports. There is no known commercial production of such cheeses in the United States."

Furthermore, the restrictions would be imposed even though the foreign type of cheese is considerably higher in price than the domestic cheese, as is the case with provolone cheese, swiss cheese, blue cheese, edam and gouda cheese, and many other foreign varieties. By providing for limitation on the basis of total pounds of butterfat and nonfat milk solids imported regardless of the form, the proposed legislation makes no provision which assures importers that they will be authorized to import the specific variety of cheese which they have historically imported.

The facts and figures with regard to imports of foreign type cheeses, which include roquefort cheese, Italian type cow's milk and sheep's milk cheese, blue cheese, edam and gouda cheese, swiss cheese, and a considerable number of other specialty cheeses, such as fontina cheese, port du salut cheese, noekkelost cheese, etc., over a period of thirty years, the latter half of which have been in part under import restriction, demonstrate that imports of foreign types of cheese have not materially increased, and especially so when compared to the population increase. The cheese importing industry is a small industry, amounting in its entirety to less than two-thirds of a pound per capita per year.

We submit a table of U.S. Cheese Production and Imports of Cheeses by Types, 1936-1939 Average and Annual Imports 1949 through 1966, together with graphs pertaining to said statistics. We also submit a table of imports of cheese during 1967 by variety and country of origin. Some very significant facts will be noted from these statistics which prove that imports have stimulated domestic production while 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. I draw your attention, for example, to Italian type cow's milk cheese. You will note that the annual average of U.S. production, 1936-1939, just prior to World War II, was 15,463,000 lbs. In the last ten years alone, the production of Italian type cow's milk cheese has more than doubled. It will be noted from the statistics of imports that imports are only slightly more than they were just prior to and after World War II and that total imports represent less than 4% of domestic production.

I draw your attention to production and imports of swiss cheese in the United States, as set forth in the table of statistics submitted. You will note that domestic production has more than tripled since just prior to World War II, and that from 1957 to the present, annual domestic production has gone up from 100 million pounds to 134 million pounds. Imports represent about 10% of domestic production, and the level of imports is only 50% more than that imported thirty years ago as compared to the 300% increase in domestic production. Examination of the statistics with regard to the domestic production of blue cheese indicates steady and ever increasing U.S. production of this foreign type of cheese, the manufacture of which, as in the case of the other foreign types of cheese referred to, was introduced from abroad. Whereas in 1951, imports of blue mold cheese were 5,048,000 lbs. compared to domestic production of 7,232,000