In all, U.S. farm exports to these Communist States declined to $109 million in 1967 from $137 million the previous year. At the same time imports from these same nations increased from $49 million in 1966 to $60 million in 1967.

This same report (p. 34) gives this assessment of the overall agricultural trade picture for 1967:

U.S. exports of agricultural products in 1967 totaled $6.4 billion, 10 percent below those of a year earlier. Agricultural imports also fell slightly to $4.5 billion. Thus the United States had a favorable balance of exports of agricultural products over imports by $1.9 billion in 1967, compared with $2.4 billion in 1966.

Put another way, Mr. Chairman, during 1967 our farm exports dropped about half a billion dollars, our imports stayed about the same, and the result was a further half-billion-dollar blow to our shaky balance-of-payments position.

What about the most recent trends? This same report highlights the July 1967 to April 1968 period and makes these points:

Total U.S. farm exports down 6 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Also: Exports of animals and animal products, down 13 percent; exports of cotton, down 14 percent; exports of fruits and vegetables, down 7 percent; exports of grains, down 4 percent; exports of wheat and flour, down 1 percent; exports of oilseeds and products, down slightly; and exports of tobacco, down 12 percent.

Total exports to the European Common Market (EEC), down 7 percent.

WHAT ABOUT IMPORTS?

During this same July 1967 to April 1968 period, here's what's been happening to imports:

Total agricultural imports, up 2 percent, with principal increases in meat, cotton, fruits, nuts, copra, sugar, tobacco, vegetables, and wines.

In brief, Mr. Chairman, the overall picture at the present time is not a pretty one—with exports down and going down further, and with imports up and going up further, the American farmer is caught in a vicious economic scissors.

Farmers in my district in southwestern Wisconsin are particularly hurt by using imports of the "three M's"—milk, meat, and mink. I know you have received and will receive a great deal more information on these commodities so I shall not burden you with any further statistical material.

I do, however, want to leave you with these thoughts.

How can American agriculture survive in an economic atmosphere of declining exports and increasing imports?

What has gone wrong in practice with the theory of "reciprocal trade" when we see an increase in imports from the Communist States of Eastern Europe and no comparable trade balance (much less any political concessions) for our Nation?

Isn't this the time to afford our dometsic agricultural economy some legislative relief, the only means at our disposal?

Thank you.

Mr. HERLONG. We appreciate your thoughts on this matter Mr. Thomson, and we thank you.