

Mr. THOMSON. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. HERLONG. The next witnesses are the representatives of the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association. I am happy to welcome them here. Our distinguished colleague, Paul Rogers, is here with them. Paul, would you like to present these gentlemen, who are all personal friends of mine and some of them former constituents.

**STATEMENT OF HON. PAUL G. ROGERS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN
CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF FLORIDA**

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't take that honor away from you. I know you would like to say something kind about these gentlemen as I would too. I did want to appear and ask permission to file a statement of more detail.

We do have a very serious problem, as you know, in Florida. I think this committee is well aware of it. These gentlemen have come to tell you the story. I won't preempt them in their statements.

A distinguished representative, Mr. Rutledge, from the Florida Citrus Mutual, will be here also to back up their testimony. We hope this committee will give serious consideration to the problem we face on the importation of vegetables and fruits.

We must have some relief, and of course we have great confidence in this committee and I am sure that after hearing the testimony you will be able to recommend legislation to the Congress to help bring about relief.

We are very grateful to you for taking up this subject.

Mr. HERLONG. Thank you, Mr. Rogers, and your detailed statement will appear following the statement of these gentlemen in the record. (See p. 4980.)

Mr. ROGERS. Thank you.

Mr. HERLONG. As I understand, Mr. J. Abney Cox, past president and the chairman of the Competition and Marketing Agreements Committee of the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, will testify first followed by Mr. Buford Council and then Mr. Peters will give us a wrap-up of the testimony.

Mr. Cox, if you will identify yourself for the record and proceed we will appreciate it.

**STATEMENTS OF J. ABNEY COX, PAST PRESIDENT AND CHAIRMAN,
COMPETITION AND MARKETING AGREEMENTS COMMITTEE,
FLORIDA FRUIT & VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION; ACCOMPANIED BY
BUFORD W. COUNCIL, CHAIRMAN, TOMATO COMMITTEE, AND
JOHN S. PETERS, MANAGER, MEMBERSHIP AND INDUSTRY RELATIONS
DIVISION**

Mr. Cox. Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee.

My name is J. Abney Cox of Princeton, Fla. I am a farmer, past president of the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, and current chairman of the Competition and Marketing Agreements Committee of that association.