

and is not bashful about placing whatever restrictions it wants to on its imports.

Unregulated foreign imports of perishable agricultural commodities in direct competition with American producers create over-supply and disorderly marketing, which benefit no one.

NEED FOR LEGISLATIVE ACTION

The general statement filed by Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association goes to quite some length in explaining the need for legislative action that will place quantitative regulations on such foreign imports of fruits and vegetables in a manner that will provide for more orderly marketing of both the foreign and domestic crops which are competing with each other.

I will, therefore, close my statement by saying that I am very much in favor of H.R. 16416, introduced by Congressmen A. Sydney Herlong, Jr., and Paul Rogers; H.R. 16992, an identical bill by Congressman J. Herbert Burke; and other similar legislation which has or may be introduced.

These bills will provide access to the U.S. market for foreign-produced fresh fruits and vegetables on an equitable and orderly market-sharing basis consistent with the maintenance of a strong and expanding U.S. production, and are designed to avoid the disruption of the domestic market and unemployment of domestic workers.

Certainly, this type of legislation would not offend our good "trading partners," and at the same time would satisfy our American farmers who are quite offended, to say the least, by the current course of events.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, for the opportunity of expressing my views at this hearing.

(Mr. Cox's prepared statement follows:)

A STATEMENT ON THE VIEWS OF THE FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INDUSTRY OF FLORIDA, SUBMITTED BY FLORIDA FRUIT & VEGETABLE ASSOCIATION

The purpose of this statement, prepared by the Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association, 4401 East Colonial Drive, Orlando, Florida, a trade association representing growers who produce more than a majority of the fruit and vegetables grown in the State of Florida, is to submit the views of the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Industry concerning the balance of trade between the United States and foreign nations.

PREFACE

There is a great need for a new U.S. foreign trade policy that is reasonable, fair and dynamic. It must not be based on the selfish aspirations of any particular area or industry but, instead, must serve to protect the jobs of all Americans whose source of livelihood is removed or threatened by foreign competition.

For many years, the Nation has been experimenting with the strange philosophy of inviting progressively greater volumes of assorted alien commodities to be marketed in this country, irrespective of their effect on this Nation's employment situation and irrespective of our balance-of-payments position. The free trade doctrinaires have prevailed because they have been able—through the masquerade of promise and concession—to divide industry against industry and section against section each time that opportunity for enactment of sensible trade legislation is in the making.

As a consequence, steadily increasing imports have forced domestic producers out of business, taking a steady toll of jobs all across the country, which, in turn, has stunted the growth of new manufacturing and processing businesses that otherwise would hold great potential in communities where unemployment